SRO crowd at MHS concert. PAGE 2
Research finds inadequate Head Start funding in NMI. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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An early Christmas gift for some

SPREADING CHEER MICHAEL T. SANTOS
Department of Public Safety officer, along with volunteers, perform Christmas carols and speak about safe driving at the JP Center in Garapan yesterday.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An early Christmas gift is how Precy Villafuerte, Violeta Dawana, and Jane Donesa described the decision of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to extend the humanitarian parole program to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. USCIS announced yesterday extending the program, effective immediately until December 2018.

Only those who have already been granted humanitarian parole may apply to renew their respective statuses. Families under the program would have been separated since the parole was scheduled to expire on Dec. 31.

Those qualified to apply for the parole extension are the legal spouse, unmarried child under 21 years old, or a parent regardless of the age of the child. You must also be residing

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Yamamoto seeks sale of M/V *Luta*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto asked the federal court yesterday to order the sale of cargo vessel M/V *Luta* to avoid its deterioration and excessive cost of keeping the vessel while his lawsuit is pending in court.

Yamamoto's motion will be heard on Dec. 20 at 8:30am.

It has been over a month since M/V *Luta* was seized by authorities. Yamamoto, through George Lloyd Hasselback, said the vessel's owner, Luta Mermaid LLC, has not made an appearance and has not contacted him.

Under these circumstances, Hasselback said, it is clear M/V *Luta*'s owner does not intend to have it released.

"Any further delay will result in

See YAMAMOTO on Page 4

IPI files countersuit vs RNV Construction

RNV Construction, the company that was chosen to build Best Sunshine Live, has been alleged by Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. to have been substantially paid and to have breached its contract with Imperial Pacific. Imperial Pacific filed a counterclaim against RNV yesterday.

Imperial Pacific disputes the amount that RNV Construction has sought to collect, saying it does not represent what was agreed upon.

RNV's complaint states that Imperial owes a balance of only $161,500 under the original $3.2 million contract to construct a casino training facility in the Duty Free Shopping mall and $1,510,578.70 for other costs

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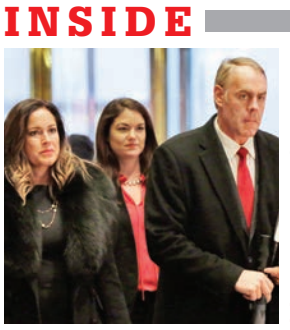

NATION
President-elect Donald Trump has offered Ryan Zinke the job of interior secretary.

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Afghan children are increasingly at risk for early marriage and child labor.

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WORLD
Syrian rebels reached a cease-fire deal to evacuate from eastern Aleppo.

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Local

SRO crowd at MHS concert

Encores were aplenty during Marianas High School's standing-room-only Winter Concert held Tuesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Gina Aguilar, general music teacher of MHS, said, "It's magnificent! My students are all amazing and talented. This show is for the parents. I'm overwhelmed right now."

With Carlo Prado and Jimmy Blancia serving as masters of ceremony, the concert showcased a large number of solos and duets.

Aguilar said, "This is an experience the students probably will remember for a long time. Whatever simple thing they're doing in this performance, is actually big for them. I wanted all my students to have some form of experience of performing in front of a crowd and most of these solo acts are from people who did it for the first time in their lives."

Proceeds of the event will be donated to Karidat Social Services, a domestic relief shelter on island.

"My students and I have agreed to give all proceeds to Karidat. We want to give the cash to them and they should do with it however they see fit. It's for people who are less fortunate than us, so why not share some of our blessings?" Aguilar said.

The audience was treated to performances by groups such as the MHS Symphonic Winds, Out and About Mime Group, and MHS Glee Club.

A senior of MHS, Stacy Nicole Palacios, said, "We're here to fundraise for Karidat and it's a really good thing to help those in need. Last year, we raised money to buy more instruments and fix some stuff in the music department at our school."

A band teacher for MHS, David Frahm, said, "This is a good chance to get all the talent groups of MHS together and showcase their talents. …I think it really shows a wide variety of talents we have over at MHS." ***(Michael T. Santos)***

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Students from Marianas High School perform on stage during their annual winter concert held at the Pedro P.Tenorio Multi Purpose Center in Susupe on Dec. 13.

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Zarones: OAG's defiance results in delay of trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chief Solicitor James M. Zarones, who has signified his intention to leave the Office of the Attorney General, has asked the Superior Court to dismiss the traffic case filed against him, asserting that the OAG Criminal Division's defiance of a court order has resulted in an unnecessary delay in bringing him to trial.

Zarones also filed an opposition to the OAG Criminal Division's emergency motion to reconsider Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja's order that directed the OAG to appoint a special prosecutor to handle the traffic case filed against him. He said the emergency motion is frivolous.

In his motion to dismiss, Zarones who is representing himself, argued that the traffic infraction must be dismissed because he is no longer being lawfully prosecuted.

Zarones pointed out that the OAG's Criminal Division failed to appoint a special prosecutor on or before Nov. 7, 2016, as Naraja had ordered.

Therefore, the chief solicitor said, as of Nov. 8, 2016, assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. and all other assistant attorneys general were deprived of their authority to prosecute him.

Zarones asked the court to dismiss the case.

Had the OAG's Criminal Division complied with the court's orders, then the matter may have been settled some time ago, Zarones said.

As it is, Zarones said he has been, and continues to be, deprived of a prosecutor who has the lawful authority to settle the case, provide discovery, or take any other action on behalf of the government.

Zarones said the OAG's Criminal Division seeks to place itself above the law, while simultaneously laying claim to its mantle of constitutional authority.

"All of this for what is normally a $25 fine. The Criminal Division's actions are illegal, unconstitutional, and unethical," he said.

In his opposition to the OAG Criminal Division's emergency motion, Zarones said if assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert "Robby" Glass Jr. felt that Naraja misunderstood the government's position in this matter, then he was free to say so at the time.

Zarones said Glass did not say so because there was no misunderstanding.

Zarones said the motion was not filed within the time limit; it did not provide the court with the applicable standard of review; and it did not meet the standard of review.

Moreover, he said, the motion is factually inaccurate and is easily disproven by the text of the transcript during the hearing before Naraja.

Glass has insisted that the OAG can continue to prosecute the case against Zarones.

Glass said no motion for recusal or disqualification of the OAG has been made and no hearing has been held which would disqualify the OAG from prosecuting the matter.

Zarones, who is a lawyer employed with the OAG, is accused of violating 9 CMC Section 5352(a) or failure to yield the right of way to another motorist. The traffic citation was issued by a police officer on Oct. 5, 2016.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a hearing on defendant's motion for bench trial for today, Thursday, at 1:30pm.

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Beach Pathway light knocked over

Reports of a Saipan Beach Pathway light being knocked over last Tuesday has reached the attention of the Marianas Visitors Authority, the government agency that spearheaded its restoration early this year. The incident is said to have happened during the early hours of Tuesday morning.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion is asking the public to help the Department of Public Safety with any information regarding the case.

"We received a report that an unknown vehicle rammed into one of the light poles and completely destroyed it, knocking it over, shattering the light fixture itself, and leaving some wires exposed," said Concepcion.

According to Concepcion, the contractor doing the project has already contacted DPS yesterday morning and MVA is waiting for further information on the incident.

"We thank our partners at DPS for their support as we determine who is responsible for this. We urge the community to report anything they know about what transpired. That's the only way we can get to the bottom of this and deter others from doing the same," he said.

Residents within the Beach Road area claim to have seen a group of people in the pavilion across JP Center, where the Beach Pathway light used to stand.

"I remember seeing a group of people in the pavilion [last Tuesday night]," said a resident.

Another resident claimed to have woken up to see the pathway light post already knocked over and three men cleaning up the already exposed wires. The resident also recalled seeing broken shards of glass, most likely to be the light bulb.

None of the residents recalled hearing anything associated with a collision. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Muña: Bill does not protect patients

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s chief executive officer is adamant that House Bill 19-186 will be detrimental to the hospital's patients.

The bill, which is awaiting Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' signature, would change the CHCC advisory board into a governing one.

Responding to a letter from former House floor leader Ana Teregeyo sent Monday, CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the biggest problem with the new bill is that the governing board would be made up of politically appointed members.

"The process of credentialing and privileging for medical staff requires that the governing body review recommendations from the credentialing committee, made up of physician peers. A governing body has to have independence from politics," said Muña.

Muña said the ability to determine who is eligible for credentialing and privileging is not up to the CEO, but rather to the credentialing committee.

"The committee and the governing body are responsible for making sure the physician is qualified, eligible, skilled, and of good character. By regulation, this must be met and CHCC cannot grant privileges based on board certification alone. HB 19-186 clearly does not have that protection from harm and right to safety for our patients," said Muña.

HB 19-186 proposes to revert the advisory board of the corporation back into a governing body to look over the functions and activities of the corporation, effectively repealing Public Law 16-51, which originally changed the role of the CHCC board into an advisory role. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Judge nixes delay in trial of Rota cop

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has denied the Office of the Attorney General's motion to move the January jury trial of Rota police officer Melvin Maratita Manglona to a later date.

The trial of Manglona, who is facing charges of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl, is set to start on Jan. 10, 2017.

Camacho noted that he set the jury trial of Manglona over three months ago, on Sept. 7, 2016. That means the OAG is well aware of the trial date, he said.

On Tuesday, four weeks before trial, assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub filed a motion to continue the trial, citing various reasons, including that she is going off-island.

Camacho said he, the court staff, prosecution, defense, and witnesses have all been preparing for the trial.

Camacho said Weintraub now claims that she just realized that the jury trial was set for a date and that she will be off-island.

At the pretrial hearing last Dec. 7, assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government. Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas represented Manglona.

Camacho said the parties informed the court that they are ready for trial.

Camacho said he then ordered the parties to inform their witnesses of the trial date and to make advance travel reservations, hotel and car reservations in Rota to avoid any delays.

He pointed out that the challenges of re-scheduling jury trial on Rota this close to the trial date is almost impossible.

The judge noted that the jury summons have already been issued for 750 potential jurors on Rota.

Camacho said the court has purchased plane tickets, which are non-refundable and that hotel reservations have been made, and the court calendar has been blocked off in order to hold the jury trial.

Camacho said Weintraub's off-island plans will have to be adjusted as it does not outweigh everyone's preparation and readiness to proceed with the trial.

In the alternative, the judge said, it is four weeks before the trial, which is ample time for someone in the OAG to prepare for the trial.

Camacho reminded OAG prosecutors that cases are prosecuted by the entire OAG. He said cases may be assigned to individual AAGs, but the responsibility to move forward and prosecute a case falls on the shoulder of the entire OAG.

"Otherwise, cases would come to a complete stop every time an individual assistant attorney general resigns, quits, takes the day off, or goes on vacation," Camacho said.

Camacho said the jury trial currently set for Jan. 10, 2017, at 9am at the Rota Courthouse shall proceed.

Manglona, 48, pleaded not guilty to two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace.

The OAG alleged that Manglona sexually abused the 14-year-old girl last July and Aug. 11, 2016, on Rota.

The girl told police that Manglona has been sexually abusing her since she was 9 and that the recent sexual encounter happened just last Aug. 11. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SHEFA to receive $3.1M from local bill

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is set to receive more than $3 million once Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs House Local Bill 19-75 D1 into law.

Introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), the co-authors of HLB 19-75 in the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation are Reps. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Antonio P. Sablan, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Vinson F. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul.

HLB 19-75 would appropriate $3,817,000 for various programs and purposes for the Third Senatorial District. The money is from anticipated revenue that would be collected from the poker fees in fiscal year 2017.

The delegation passed HLB 19-75 in their session last Tuesday at the House chamber on Capital Hill. Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan) introduced floor amendment that would require all recipients of the appropriated funds to submit a report of their expenditure.

SHEFA will be receiving $3,170,000 with $170,000 reserved for its daily operations while the Saipan Mayor's Office will be allocated $117,000 and the Saipan Zoning Office $75,000. Five projects will have $38,000 each of allotment with the money for Precinct 1 to be used for the construction and paving of Obyan Road.

The same amount would address the flooding problem in District 3 of Precinct II while another $38,000 would buy a booster pump and other materials for repairs needed in a water line connection for Mt. Tapochau residents. Upgrading the Capital Hill softball field and other sports facilities in Precinct 4 are alloted $38,000.

The last $38,000 will be spent to fix the drainage system of Nikka PL in Kagman I and the road paving of Pine Drive.

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library would get $30,000 in assistance for its renovation, and the Northern Islands Mayor's Office and Saipan Little League would receive $25,000 each. Precincts 1 to 5 are allocated $20,000 each to fund the construction of bus stops in Dandan, San Antonio, and Koblerville (Precinct 1); repairs of Pacho Park and drainage systems (Precinct 2); construction of a bus stop in Chinatown and lights for the basketball courts in Garapan, Oleai, and Gualo Rai (Precinct 3); removal and construction of the retaining walls in As Matuis and road bumps for Sisonyan Drive (Precinct 4); and Kagman 4 water system (Precinct 5).

The delegation has reserved $20,000 for its operations, the same amount allocated for next year's Liberation Day activities. The CNMI outrigger canoe participants in last October's Micronesian Cup in Palau would get another $20,000. The Flame Tree Arts Festival would have $15,000, while the Saipan International Fishing Derby and Stellar Marianas get $5,000 each. ***(Jon Perez)***

EARLY

From Page 1

in the CNMI and have been previously granted parole.

Villafuerte said it was welcome news for IRs (immediate relative) like her as she had been waiting for word about her parole application.

"I applied in July and I've been praying every time that USCIS would finally grant my application. I had the same prayer last Thanksgiving. That's why I've been checking our [mail] box but there's no letter or any document from USCIS."

"The last letter I received from them is it is still too early. I was a bit worried since it is already December and there's been no word from USCIS. But I did not lose hope. Now, it will be a happy Christmas for us," added Villafuerte, a single mother with a 10-year-old U.S. citizen child.

However, it would not be a joyous celebration of the holidays for everyone, she said, as some of her friends or people she knows had to leave the CNMI due to the CNMI-Only Transition Worker Nonimmigrant Visa program or CW1 numerical cap. She said it has been heartbreaking since they are forced to leave their children behind.

"It will be a sad Christmas for some. I feel sorry for some of my friends or people who I know who are CWs, because it is Christmas time and they have to leave their kids. Families should not be apart this time of the year," said Villafuerte.

Like Villafuerte, Dawana is also waiting for the approval of her parole application. "Hopefully, USCIS had already sent it so we could receive our parole on time. There's still hope, the extension would allow us to legally stay here in the CNMI."

Having a parole document would also mean they could now apply for an Employment Authorization Document, giving one the chance to legally work in the Commonwealth. "I'm 58 years old but I can still work. Even if it is a part time job, I will take it."

Dawana has a 20-year-old child and would be eligible to apply for a green card next year.

Jane Donesa, meanwhile, applied for parole so she could take care of her two kids who are 6 and 8 years old. She also recovered from an operation last year.

"I'm ready to apply for an EAD so I could also get a job. I'm happy with the news of the extension. I want to help my family here and in the Philippines since there are now a lot of opportunities here," said Donesa.

Family is important

In a statement yesterday, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that family unity has always been important to the Pacific culture. "That is why under Commonwealth immigration law, the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens were allowed to live here in the [CNMI], as were certain stateless persons born here but not granted citizenship in the Covenant.

"Because allowing these families to stay together was the Commonwealth immigration policy and because it is consistent with our cultural values, I have been an advocate for doing the same under federal law over the last eight years. The policy was put in place in 2011, has been renewed twice before, and this year I have been making the case with USCIS to extend it again."

Sablan thanked USCIS director Leon Rodriguez for deciding to extend the parole program for two more years. "To the best of my understanding, there are fewer than 1,000 husbands, wives, children or parents and families affected by this humanitarian parole. These families were facing separation at the end of December. Now, they can stay together."

"As I said two years ago, when director Rodriguez renewed this policy, I encourage all of our families who have some U.S. and some non-U.S. members to keep working toward obtaining U.S. permanent status."

He added that the program has no guarantee of being offered in the future. "That advice is more important now than ever. Because even though this humanitarian parole policy has been continually renewed by the Obama administration, there is no guarantee that parole will continue to be offered in the future."

USCIS requirements

USCIS released the following information on your request for parole extension: A letter from you, the immediate relative or from the U.S. citizen family member if the immediate relative is a child who is too young to complete the parole request package.

The letter must: Ask for an extension of parole; explain under what relationship you are requesting this parole (such as parent, spouse, child); and note whether you have been arrested or convicted of any crime since your last request.

Form G-325, Biographic Information that you completed within the past 30 days; a copy of your I-94; a copy of any EAD that you received; and a copy of your passport (only if a new one was issued since you last applied for parole).

There is no fee for this extension request. We recommend that you keep a copy of all documents.

Seal all the above items in one envelope and clearly write on the outside of the envelope: Your name, "PAROLE EXTENSION FOR IR of USC" and the expiration date of your current parole.

You can make an appointment for your parole extension request at the USCIS office on Saipan, or you can mail your request to: DHS-USCIS ATTN: PAROLE EXTENSION – CNMI 770 East Sunset Boulevard, Suite 185 Barrigada, Guam 96913.

This parole extension will allow the immediate relative to lawfully remain with the U.S. citizen in the CNMI, but parole does not authorize employment.

Immediate relatives must, as before, obtain an EAD by submitting Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, or obtain work authorization as a CW-1 or in another employment-based nonimmigrant status under federal immigration law.

This does not extend to anyone other than the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals. USCIS may grant parole on a case-by-case basis based on the individual circumstances and has exercised parole authority on a case-by-case basis in the CNMI since 2009 for special situations.

USCIS is the agency within the Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for immigration benefits.

YAMAMOTO

From Page 1

additional, unnecessary and excessive arrest costs, as well as a decrease in the value of the vessel, which in turn, will result in a higher unpaid lien amount," the lawyer said.

National Maritime Services Inc., the custodian of M/V *Luta*, asked the court on Tuesday to require Yamamoto to pay it $82,463.33 for custodian services from October to December 2016.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized M/V *Luta* and appointed National Maritime Services Inc. as custodian.

In Yamamoto's motion for sale, Hasselback disclosed that he was contacted last Nov. 7 by attorney Joaquin Torres, who said he represented Fidel Mendiola Sr.

Hasselback said Torres asked for an extension of time to file a claim and respond to Yamamoto's lawsuit because its desired attorney, William Fitzgerald, was off-island.

Hasselback said Fitzgerald contacted him last Nov. 29 for an extension so he could file an answer on behalf of "Fidel Mendiola," but was unclear as to which "Fidel Mendiola" of which he spoke.

On that day, Hasselback said, he sought clarification about Fitzgerald's intended client/clients, but has not heard back from him.

"Neither Mr. Torres, Mr. Fitzgerald, nor anyone else claiming to represent the owner, has indicated any intent to secure the release of the vessel from arrest," Hasselback pointed out.

Hasselback said the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allow the sale if the property is perishable, or liable to deteriorate, decay, or be injured by being detained.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COUNTERSUIT

From Page 1

that Imperial disputes.

IPI said it fully respects its local business partners.

RNV Construction has allegedly breached its contract with IPI and has engaged in unfair practices.

"We will continue to work with different business partners, the CNMI government and the community to further grow the local economy, offer job opportunities and to promote Saipan as a premier international tourist destination," the company said.

IPI said the lawsuit does not affect the ongoing construction of its multimillion-dollar hotel and casino project in Garapan. (***PR***)

Man gets 4 months in prison

An intoxicated man who allegedly damaged the window of their house in Chalan Kanoa, yelled profanities at his wife, threatened her, and took their four children from her has pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four months in prison.

Rudolph Kios, 28, pleaded guilty last week to disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Kios to six months in prison, all suspended except for four months with credit for time served. It means he will no longer serve jail time.

Kios was placed on supervised probation for two years and ordered to pay $25 in court costs and $200 in probation fees. He was required to complete anger management counseling and barred from consuming alcohol and drugs.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Kios with disturbing the peace-domestic violence. He was arrested last August on charges of assault, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

According to the plea deal, on Aug. 11, 2016, on Saipan, Kios forcibly removed his wife's four young children from their home against her will, causing her to be afraid.

Two police responded to Chalan Kanoa when the victim's oldest son called police on Aug. 11 at 1:09am that his stepfather, Kios, kept bothering his mom. The victim told police that Kios took their four children away from her and left.

Kios had come home drunk and damaged the window near their door. Kios was not arrested at that time as the wife told police that she just wanted him to leave the house. He took out his belongings and continued yelling at her.

At 1:50am, the same day, Kios returned home and took their four children. The wife stopped him from taking their children, but the children followed him. She asked her other son to call the police.

A police officer later spotted Kios and the children along Tun Joaquin Road near a pawnshop. Two other officers came and arrested him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

MPLT chair Martin B. Ada, center, poses with staff and representatives of the Youth Affairs Office after a donation held at the Manhoben Office in San Antonio on Dec. 14.

DYS receives donation from MPLT

The Marianas Public Land Trust recently donated educational tools and health-related items to the Division of Youth Services.

Donations came from the 100 or more sponsors that had booths at the International Federation of Employee Benefits Program conference held last Nov. 16 in Orange County, Florida.

"We should always think about our youth with whatever we do. Whatever training we receive, anything we get, we should think about how they can benefit the youth. They are our future and the more we teach and give them, I believe, would create positive outcomes," said MPLT chair Martin Borja Ada.

DYS special assistant Shelane Borja thanked MPLT.

"The Youth Affairs office is greatly appreciative of the donation today and we are excited to give them to the participants this year as well as some of supplies we're gathering. Some of the participants are from families who don't have that much this holiday season so we try our best to see what we can."

"We hope this could bring other agencies to donate whatever goods they can for the centers. …Whatever the community can offer, whatever they have at their houses is acceptable. We are also trying to help out our partner agencies like DYS and Karidat because we know they have a lot to work with," said Borja.

For those wishing to donate, call 234-0543, email shelane.borja@gov.mp, or visit the youth centers in San Antonio, Koblerville, or Gualo Rai. The centers are open Tuesdays to Saturdays. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

Japanese man revisits the Guam cave where he hid during WWII

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— A 92-year-old Japanese man has returned to Guam to visit a cave where he hid for nearly a year during World War II.

Kiichi Kobayashi told *The Pacific Daily News* through an interpreter Monday that he's grateful for island residents and the U.S. troops who captured him because both groups helped him survive.

Kobayashi was a 19-year-old aircraft mechanic for the Japanese air force when he was sent to wartime Guam and ended up hiding from U.S. troops in a cave with some 50 fellow soldiers, he said. The number dwindled to about 10 and Kobayashi said he was eventually the only one left living.

Many of the Japanese military men died from complications of gunshot wounds and other injuries, explained Kobayashi. He managed to stay alive by eating wild papayas and stealing food from houses he could walk to secretly, and he said the residents began leaving bananas and other food outside for him.

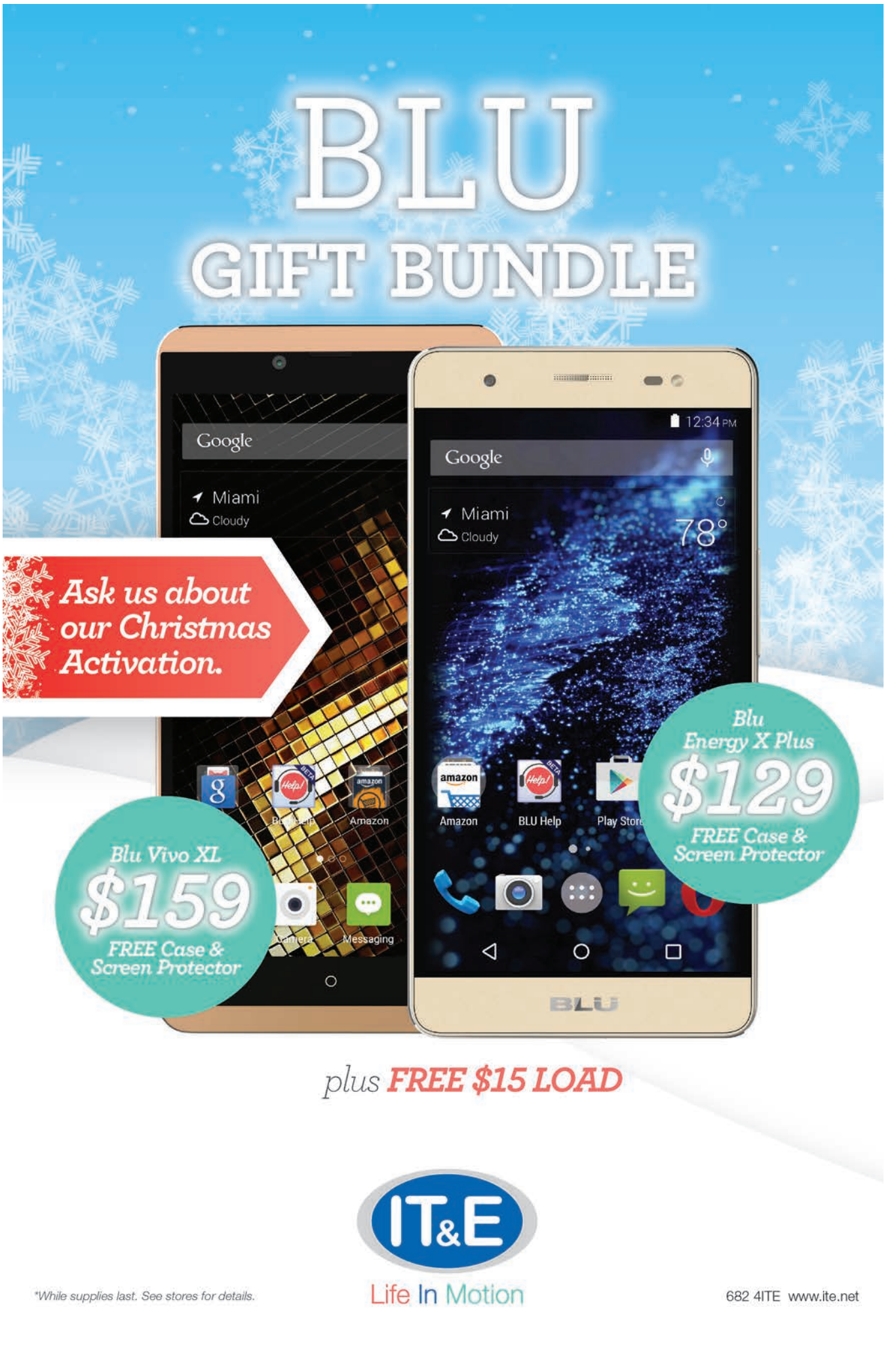
"They knew (I) was out there," he said through an interpreter.

Kobayashi had planned to kayak to the cave Monday and go inside with his daughter and granddaughter, but rain and a rough sea prevented the plan. Instead, Kobayashi visited the shoreline closest to the cave, near the University of Guam Marine Laboratory. He was joined by family members and some Guam residents with Japanese ancestry.

The former aircraft mechanic explained that he thought often of his parents, especially his mother and her homemade *mochi*, while struggling to survive in the cave. He said through interpreters that he decided that he would honor his mom first rather than the country's emperor if he survived the ordeal.

Kobayashi said the U.S. soldiers who eventually captured him were nice, providing him with a tasty meal and immediately providing medical care for his gangrenous gunshot wound.

He said he hopes to come back to the cave again if his health permits it. He also expressed opposition to war, saying that "it's not good."



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-17-015

SALE AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP MATERIALS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Scrap materials located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-17-015, CUC Sale & Removal of Scrap Materials from the Warehouse"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the scrap materials. CUC shall transfer and assign the scrap materials to the prospective bidder in an "As is, Where is" condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the scrap materials.

The scrap materials may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Warehouse Division at telephone no. 322-6585.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2017, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

WANTED

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The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

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- With photography skills;
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If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

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Research finds inadequate Head Start funding in NMI

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ—Head Start, a federal program created in 1965 that helps children and families overcome the disadvantages of poverty, varies dramatically from state to state in funding, classroom hours, quality, and percentage of low-income children served, according to the "State(s) of Head Start" report released yesterday by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

This groundbreaking report examines Head Start and Early Head Start data from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories for 2014-2015, as well as historical data from 2007 to 2015.

The study was conducted to provide policymakers and the public with detailed information regarding federal support for Head Start and the services Head Start provides on a state-by-state basis. The report also includes information on two important programs serving particularly vulnerable populations that do not easily fit in the individual state profiles. The American Indian and Alaska Native program provides culturally sensitive services to children and families in tribal areas who are often isolated from other early childhood education programs. The Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program targets the unique needs of primarily agricultural worker families who move across states and work extended days.

"State(s) of Head Start" reveals widespread differences across states in funding, classroom hours, teacher qualifications and compensation, observed quality, and enrollment. Such differences arise, in part, as local programs have been forced to triage limited funding. "State(s) of Head Start" clarifies the needs in each state for additional federal, as well as state and local, support for the education of young children in poor and low-income families. This report's findings underscore the need for greater coordination between Head Start and state and local government agencies to build high-quality early learning programs with widespread reach and adequate funding.

"Our report for the first time reveals the extent of disparities in Head Start funding and coverage state by state," said NIEER director W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D. "We urge local, state and federal policymakers to work with Head Start providers and the broader early childhood education community, including researchers, to address issues raised in this report."

In the Northern Mariana Islands, Head Start enrolled 542 children during the 2014-2015 program year—about 12 percent of the territory's low-income children under age 5. Federal funding per child was $11,500 for Early Head Start serving infants and toddlers and $3,883 for children ages 3 and 4 enrolled in Head Start. No children attended school-day, five-day per week Head Start programs.

All Head Start teachers reported having a BA or higher and Head Start teachers earned $35,249 on average.

Head Start is a federally funded, locally administered comprehensive child development program that provides early education and support services to children and families with household incomes up to 130 percent of poverty by federal standards (about $33,000 for a family of four).

Head Start serves children ages 3 to 5, while Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers.

Many Head Start programs collaborate with child care and public preschool programs to serve eligible children, including children of migrant workers and tribal families. Head Start has expanded and innovated over its 50-year history, pioneering home visiting services, infant-toddler care, and raising the standard for teacher training. For example, the percent of Head Start teachers with a bachelor's degree or higher increased nationwide from 44 percent in 2007 to 73 percent in 2015, a direct result of requirements included in the 2007 Head Start reauthorization.

The "State(s) of Head Start" report is also the first to report on Head Start classroom quality by state. Across the country, Head Start teachers demonstrated an ability to provide emotionally supportive environments, and the majority of states also scored well on classroom organization.

However, programs in just two states, Kentucky and Vermont, could be determined to score above a research-based threshold for effective instructional support. Eighteen states scored significantly below this threshold.

The report also finds variation in teacher qualifications, compensation, and turnover that can create problems for providing effective programs. The report shows that Head Start programs are not uniformly funded at levels adequate to ensure a high quality learning and development experience and attract and retain qualified teachers while providing all the required services. Large differences in funding between states remain even after accounting for differences in the cost of living between states.

NIEER estimates that federal funding falls $14 billion short of what would be needed to serve all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds in high-quality Head Start programs for 1,020 hours per year (at an average of $10,000 per child).

Early Head Start is even further from the funding levels needed to fulfill its expressed mission. Although Head Start grantees are expected to raise 20 percent of their total budget from non-federal sources in the form of financial or in-kind donations, these added resources do not make up for the gaps in the federal funds needed to adequately pay teachers to deliver the expected quality and hours of services.

NIEER's findings highlight the need for renewed attention to meeting the needs of young children in low-income families in every state, recognizing that Head Start is not the only program serving them. State and local government agencies also sponsor early childhood programs.

Coordination with Head Start is already strong in some states and cities, but more can be done. Of course, no amount of coordination can make up for a lack of adequate resources for young children birth to age 5 across all levels of government. For example, some states do not even offer pre-K and others have poorly funded programs with low standards and minimal hours.

"As Head Start is only one in a larger set of public programs supporting young children that varies greatly from one state to the next, we call for an independent bipartisan study commission to develop an action plan supporting quality education for all young children and their families, particularly the most vulnerable, in every state and territory," Barnett said.

The "State(s) of Head Start" report was supported with funding provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions in this report are solely those of the authors.

The "State(s) of Head Start" digest provides a printed narrative, national figures, and national overview. For more information on the "State(s) of Head Start" and detailed state-by-state profiles on quality, duration, access, and funding, visit www.nieer.org. ***(PR)***

About 25 students join Million Dollar Scholars

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman High School college preparation teacher Gerard Van Gils hopes to increase the number of CNMI residents who can avail of post-secondary education through the Million Dollar Scholars.

Van Gils, who is the 2017 CNMI State Teacher of the Year, said the CNMI has a very unfortunate statistic with regards to residents with bachelor's degrees.

Compared to the other 50 states across the country, the CNMI is dead last when it comes to citizens with bachelor's degrees. According to the Department of Commerce, only about 14 percent of CNMI residents have a bachelor's degree.

During a recent meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Van Gils said his program, the Million Dollar Scholars, intends to send KHS students to college through scholarships and guidance.

"Part of my mission is I want to move that percentage up. I want more of our citizens to get post-high school education, whether it be in trade schools or universities. I want to create a generation of KHS students who are truly career and college-ready," said Van Gils.

"We have about 23 or 25 students who will participate in this year's [Million Dollar Scholars]. We hope to get big scholarships and send lots of kids to college," he added.

Van Gils said the Million Dollar Scholars even goes as far as researching universities for students as well as providing useful tips and assistance.

"We've been working with our current class since their junior year in high school, so we are already about one year into working with these students. We prepare them, help them study for their SATs; give them test-taking tips; we also prepare them mentally and emotionally and research universities for them," said Van Gils.

"Our [Million Dollar Scholars] will have another great year this year and I hope we get a lot more sponsorship and support like we did last year," he added.

The Million Dollar Scholars Program was started by Van Gils and KHS principal Leila Staffler, in which money is raised for scholarships and various college expenses such as housing, clothing, etc.

3 indicted for distribution, possession of 'ice'

Three men were indicted in federal court for distribution and possession of methamphetamine or "ice" on separate occasions on Saipan.

Qiran Li, Yang Kang Chen, and Yang Zou were arrested and taken before the U.S. District Court for the NMI for their initial appearance yesterday afternoon.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government at the hearing.

The indictments, which were filed under seal last Dec. 2, were unsealed yesterday.

Li was charged with two counts of distribution of a controlled substance.

Chen, also known as Akam, Ah-Kong, and Ken, was charged with two counts of distribution of a controlled substance.

Zou was charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

The indictments did not indicate the quantity of "ice" involved in the three cases.

The indictments contain the U.S. government's notice of forfeiture of the defendants' all property derived from any proceeds that they obtained as a result of such offense, upon their conviction. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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Congratulations! Another big $5000 winner at Green Consume store at Middle Chalan Lau Lau, Saipan.

This is the 3rd $5000 winner in the past 5 weeks and there are still more to be won.

This lucky winner had just received formal approval of her CW permit and was feeling lucky so she bought three Buried Treasure tickets and scratched $5000 instant cash prize.

You could be the next lucky winner so try your luck and get your tickets now.

The lucky winner on the right, Xing Juan Wang and the Green Consume cashier.

Salvation Army hosts toy drive for DYS

The NMI Salvation Army has extended its Christmas cheer to the Division of Youth Services by starting a toy drive on behalf of the program's children.

The Salvation Army hosts a toy drive every year.

Ministry leader Pastor Wayne Gillespie said, "Some of these kids think that no one loves them around this time of year. This is just to make sure they get some toys."

The Salvation Army is asking for donations of unwrapped toys for children ranging from infants to 18 years of old. Puzzles, books, dolls, balls, and games with books are especially desired.

For those wishing to donate, the drop-off location is at the Bank of Hawaii's branch at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai. Within the building should be a Christmas tree along with a box designated solely for toys. If a person does not have the time to buy toys or does not possess one, the Salvation Army also welcomes cash donations for this year's toy drive.

"Usually at the final week or day, we realize we don't have enough toys for a specific age group or gender. That is why cash is useful so we can just run down to the nearest store and buy a gift," Gillespie said.

About a 100 kids from DYS are expected to receive gifts from the Salvation Army.

"We think this fundraiser holds a tremendous amount of importance. Oftentimes, this may be the only Christmas gift they'll receive," said Gillespie.

Also happening during the Christmas month is the Salvation Army's Red Kettle program at the Joeten Superstore. The idea would be for passing customers who wish to donate to simply drop cash into the kettle. All proceeds go to the general operations of the organization such as the toy drive or its Thanksgiving celebration. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

GCA K-12 Eagles soar high in forensics

Grace Christian Academy students from Kindergarten to 12th grade soared high in forensic competitions for the past two months. They have shown excellence by winning in different events like reading, public speaking, interpretations, and debate.

With fewer numbers of competitors in December, GCA's Kindergarten to 5th graders even improved their number of wins in the Primary Grades Forensic Conference compared to the same month last year. They won six first places in different events.

Like their younger schoolmates, GCA's 17 students from 6th grade to 8th grade soared high in the National Junior Speech and Debate Association. So did 11 GCA students in 9th to 12th grades in the National Speech and Debate Association competition in November. All of the NJSDA and NSDA competitors won one or more of the events they competed in.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy were very proud of each student and would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in these island-wide competitions.

PRIMARY GRADES FORENSIC CONFERENCE K-2 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A
Breanna May Lopez, 4th Place
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation B
Maria Sofia Gomez, 2nd Place
Breanna May Lopez, 4th Place
Akira Ito, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Mariska Badal, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking C
Min Su Andy Kim, 2nd Place

Readers Forum Masters B
Justin Yao Ma, 3rd Place
Shewoo Kim, 4th Place
Rafael Ablog, 5th Place

Choral Speaking A
Min Su Andy Kim, 3rd Place
Rafael Ablog, 3rd Place
Clarisse Marzan, 3rd Place

PRIMARY GRADES FORENSIC CONFERENCE 3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation A
Tae Hee Kim, 1st Place
William Matthew Cano, 2nd Place
Jennifer Woo, 3rd Place
Azriel Fatialofa, 4th Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Serim Woo, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation A
Moira Grace Ernest, 1st Place
Seungeun Olivia Ha, 1st Place
Ashley Ji Hye Jeon, 4th Place
Kei Lizama, 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Moira Grace Ernest, 1st Place
Serim Woo, 3rd Place
Angieleysha Marie Punzalan, 4th Place
Sena Woo, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Tae Young Lee, 2nd Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 3rd Place
Nestor Ablog Jr., 4th Place
Janus Roman, 5th Place

Readers Forum A
Janus Roman, 3rd Place

Readers Forum Masters B
Tae Hee Kim, 1st Place
Jennifer Woo, 4th Place

Readers Forum Masters C
Ashley Ji Hye Jeon, 1st Place
Kei Lizama, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters D
Angieleysha Marie Punzalan, 4th Place
Yellena Sarang Kim, 5th Place

Choral Speaking A
Yellena Sarang Kim, 1st Place
Alyssa Kim, 1st Place
Jeongyun Jang, 1st Place
Jung Woo Kim, 1st Place
Rafael Busby, 1st Place

Teachers/coach
K5 teacher Sheryl Joy Prieto; 1st Grade teacher Courtney Poppinga; 2nd Grade teacher Miriam Dilse; 3rd Grade teacher Rosanna Lopez; 4th Grade teacher Amanda Haas; 5th Grade teacher Leah Garfil; and PGFC coach/coordinator Esther Manzano

Judges/volunteers: Joan Taitano, Desolie Calayo, Benjie Vivero, Minna Ito, Yujin Lee, Melody Woo, Charissa Parco, Martin Pangilinan, Arvin Dayao, Jabez Victoria

NATIONAL JUNIOR SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION 6TH-8TH GRADE

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Na Lee Christy Lee, 2nd Place
Jonathan Lee, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speech D
Jonathan Lee, 2nd Place
Na Lee Christy Lee, 5th Place

Extemporaneous Speech A
Anthony Jacob Camacho, 1st Place
James Alexander Keaton, 2nd Place
Na Lee Christy Lee, 3rd Place

Story Telling C
Maui Johnson, 1st Place
Poetry Reading B
Michelle Ji Yeon Jeon, 5th Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Maui Johnson, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters D
Gayeon Angela Kim, 5th Place

Prose Reading A

Duo Interpretation A
Soleil Lamar, 2nd Place
Brandie Matsumoto, 2nd Place
Joyce Liv Francisco, 3rd Place
Eun Ena Sol Kim, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation B
Haeun Emily Lee, 1st Place
Gayeon Angela Kim, 1st Place
Jie Du, 5th Place
Jun Du, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Steven Adriatico, 2nd Place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation B
Maui Johnson, 3rd Place
Joyce Liv Francisco, 4th Place

Impromptu Speech A
Anthony Jacob Camacho, 1st Place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech C
Soleil Lamar, 3rd Place
Brandie Matsumoto, 4th Place

Impromptu Speech D
Jonathan Lee, 2nd Place
Na Lee Christy Lee, 5th Place

Extemporaneous Speech A
Anthony Jacob Camacho, 1st Place
James Alexander Keaton, 2nd Place
Na Lee Christy Lee, 3rd Place

Story Telling C
Maui Johnson, 1st Place
Poetry Reading B
Michelle Ji Yeon Jeon, 5th Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Maui Johnson, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters D
Gayeon Angela Kim, 5th Place

Prose Reading A
Steven Adriatico, 1st Place

Prose Reading D
Jinju Thompson, 4th Place
Michelle Ji Yeon Jeon, 5th Place

Prose Reading Masters C
Brandie Matsumoto, 3rd Place
Jonathan Lee, 4th Place
Soleil Lamar, 5th Place

NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION 9TH-12TH GRADE

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Hyunin Harry Noh, 2nd Place

Dramatic Interpretation A
Yujin Lee, 1st Place
Johnny Jin, 5th Place

Dramatic Interpretation A
Tae Yong Kim, 2nd Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Kaydie Claude Aquino, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation B
Eun Kyung Alice Kim, 4th Place
Sein Woo, 4th Place

Original Oratory A
Sumin Melody Woo, 4th Place

US Extemporaneous Speech
Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 2nd Place
Arvin Dayao, 3rd Place

International Extemporaneous Speech
Hyunin Harry Noh, 1st Place
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speech C
Tae Yong Kim, 4th Place

Impromptu Speech D
Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 2nd Place
Arvin Dayao, 3rd Place
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 4th Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Sein Woo, 3rd Place
Kaydie Claude Aquino, 4th Place

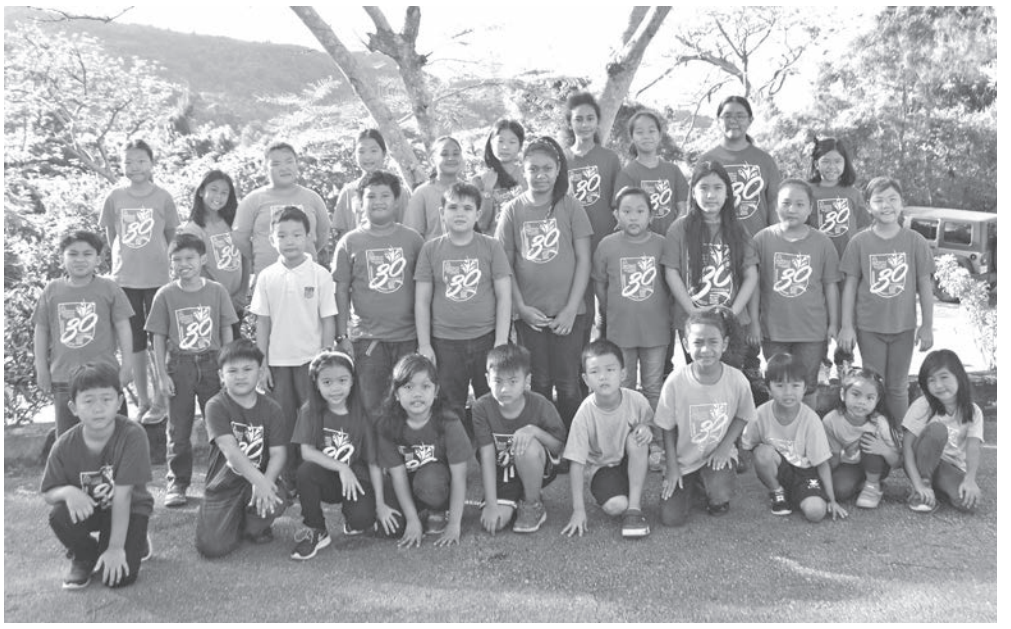
Poetry Reading Masters B
Yujin Lee, 1st Place
Eun Kyung Alice Kim, 5th Place

Commentary
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 3rd Place
Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 4th Place
Arvin Dayao, 5th Place

NJSDA/NSDA coach/coordinator: Grace Duran

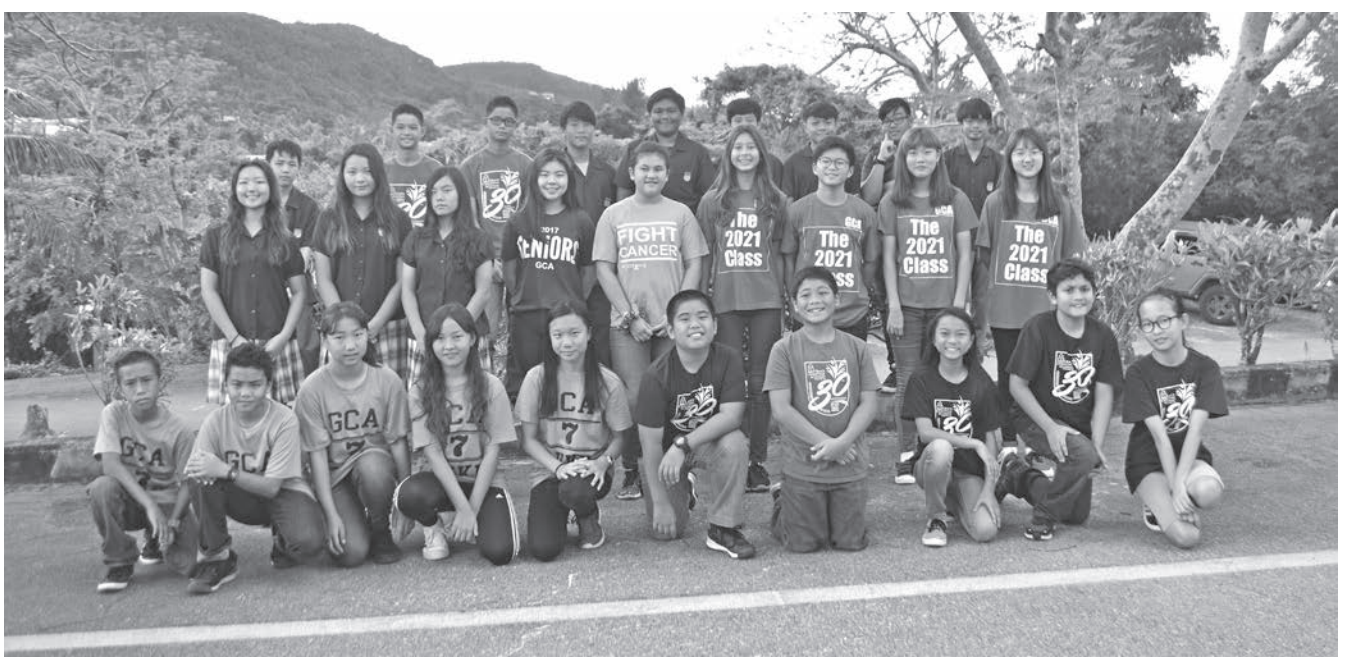
Competition registrar: Esther Manzano

Judges: Pastor Connie Chandler, Laila Portuguez Jay Kwang Oh, Bethany Garfil



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's December Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition winners.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's November National Junior Speech and Debate Association and National Speech and Debate Association competition winners.

Public invited to the first 'Walk 'N Roll' fundraiser

In the spirit of the holiday season, Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. will be holding today its first annual wellness event, "Light up the Night Holiday Walk 'N Roll."

This is a two-hour event that will begin at 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Base. Registration will be from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

The purpose of this event is to encourage wellness activities and a healthier lifestyle within the workplace and encourage community involvement in the campaign of healthy living.

Geri Dela Cruz, Imperial Pacific International's executive director for Corporate Social Responsibility, said, "This event initially started off as a wellness program; however, after collaboration with Ayuda Network, it became more of a fundraiser with which the proceeds will aid underprivileged families receive gifts this Christmas."

"There are many positive impacts from this event. It's a way to incorporate some sort of physical activity in the community, especially since the holiday parties have begun and at the same time, our way of helping underprivileged children receive gifts. There are many different organizations under the Ayuda Network umbrella who will be the well-deserving recipients of this fundraiser," Dela Cruz added.

Helping conceive the idea of bringing together the fundraiser in time for the Christmas season, Franchesca Tomokane, former CSR representative, said, "I have always envisioned a solution to help underprivileged children feel loved during the holidays and what better way to make it happen than to have a walk-athon to raise funds for gift-giving this Christmas."

She added, "With the leadership of CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz and the help of the CSR team, and in collaboration with Ayuda Network, this was all made possible, and I'm so excited to be a part of the event, as well as anticipating and seeing the outcome of it."

Tomokane further added that today's event was designed to increase morale in the community. "We want to ensure that even the littlest things could put a smile on a child's face this Christmas."

Ayuda Network is a human services agency that helps families in need and Imperial Pacific International chose them to be the beneficiary of the event and all proceeds will be distributed to other organizations under them that serve the same purpose.

"We are excited to meet with them and assist in distributing the gifts," Dela Cruz said.

The "Light up the Night Holiday Walk 'N Roll" will start at the Garapan Fishing Base and all the way to the Quartermaster Tank and back. Registration will begin from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, with the option to pay the registration fee of $10 or waive the fee by contributing a gift with a price value ranging from $5 to $10. There will be refreshments and water provided to all participants.

There will be a judging competition consisting of the "Most Lit Outfit of the Night," which will be inclusive of the contestant's own props. There are prizes at stake for first, second, and third place winners. All proceeds from the event will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for children.

In line with this event, Imperial Pacific International will also be setting up a toy drive. There are designated drop-off boxes located at a few locations of Imperial Pacific International; at the reception area on the third floor of the Bank of Guam building and at the Finance Department. And to promote the charitable act of gift-giving within all IPI casino staff, a drop-off box can also be found at the employee lounge of the casino.

All IPI employees are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys during regular business hours from Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8am and 5pm. The deadline for the toy drive is Dec. 16, 2016. (***PR***)

Castro graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force airman Clareth T. Castro graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Castro is the daughter of Alanie and Ricardo Castro of Saipan. She is a 2014 graduate of Marianas High School. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman cluster schools' PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016, at 5pm in the Kagman High School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Guam Marines to deliver toys to Salvation Army

DEDEDO, Guam—U.S. Marines from Marine Corps Activity Guam are scheduled to delivery Christmas toys to the Barrigada Salvation Army this tomorrow, Dec. 16, as part of this year's Toys for Tots campaign.

From generous contributions of private citizens, local businesses, local high schools and community organizations, U.S. Marines collected approximately 4,000 toys during this year's efforts. Transporting the toys from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, the Marines will be escorted by the Guam Veteran's Motorcycle Club to help deliver the toys. ***(PR)***

Water outages in Oleai, CK

Residents of Oleai and Chalan Kanoa will experience daily water service interruption until Dec. 23. The interruptions will be from 3am to 5am, as part of an ongoing leak detection program. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Cop. Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

IP host gov.mp temporarily down

This is to inform the general public that the IP host gov.mp will temporarily be down until further notice. As a result, certain department websites will be down for maintenance. ***(PR)***

Join the annual Christmas Bird Count

On Dec. 19, birders are invited to participate in Saipan's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers will meet at 6am at the American Memorial Park. Bring binoculars if you have them, but it's okay if you don't. For more information, contact Steve Mullin at 664-6011 or smullin.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com /. ***(PR)***

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 yearend filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(PR)***

NMC's spring 2017 semester dates

The Northern Marianas College is reminding all of its current students and other individuals who are interested in enrolling for its upcoming spring 2017 semester about the following key dates:

- Dec. 30, 2016: *Admission application deadline*
- Ongoing until Jan. 13, 2017: Registration for ongoing and new/ readmitted students via Proa Portal
- Jan. 9 -13, 2017: Late registration/ advising period
- Jan. 5, 2017: *Prior Learning Assessment Program info session*, 5:30pm (Room D-1)

To schedule a placement test, call 237-6774 or email date/time preference to isabel.matsunaga@marianas.edu.

- Dec. 19-22, 2016: 9:30am or 1:30pm (Room N-5)
- Jan. 3-6, 2017: 9:30am or 1:30pm (Room N-5)
- Jan. 9-12, 2017: 9:30am or 1:30pm (Room N-5)
- Jan. 6, 2017: Orientation for new and international students:
- Jan. 17, 2017: First day of class for spring 2017

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management, and associate degrees in business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

Northern Marianas College will also be highlighting its Credit for Prior Learning Program at an info session at 5:30pm on January 5, 2017 (Room D1). Anyone interested in learning more about this program is invited to attend.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2017 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768 / 6769 / 6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Marine scientists talks about Marianas Trench at Rotary

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Dr. Andrew Thaler speaks about the different biological aspects residing within the Marianas Trench during a presentation to members of the Saipan Rotary Club at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Dec. 13.

Marine scientist and blogger Dr. Andrew Thaler treated members of Rotary Club of Saipan to a presentation on the biology of the famed Marianas Trench.

"I'm here with Angelo Villagomez and Rick MacPherson and we're just traveling around to discuss a lot of the science that is going on in the Marianas Trench, a lot of the biodiversity out there, and exciting things going on around the Northern Mariana Islands," he said at the group's weekly meeting on Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Thaler has enabled local enthusiasts to navigate a miniature replica of a deep-sea device used to explore trenches in the ocean. He also educates people on information found in the Marianas Trench as well as its significance. He will be leaving next week to do the same on Tinian and Rota.

"The deep ocean is a big unknown. It is out of sight, it's out of mind. We don't actually have the tools to get into the bottom of the trench. We had four vehicles in the last 80 years go to the bottom; none of them are available today. One is retired and others were lost in a variety of ways. So half of the Marianas Trench is beyond access to human technology," Thaler said.

The Marianas Trench is the deepest part of the world's ocean and is located in the Western Pacific. At its deepest point, it is about 11,000 meters deep.

"If you take Mt. Everest and you drop it in the Marianas Trench, there will still be three kilometers of water on top of it," Thaler said.

"I look at how biological communities are connected across the Western Pacific Ocean and how human impacts can affect them as well as how resilient the communities are to human interactions," he said when asked to describe what he does.

"There are several who even work on direct human beneficial type of studies. One example is there was a giant anthropoid discovered in the trench about four years ago that secretes a chemical compound that can be a possible treatment for Alzheimer's disease," he added. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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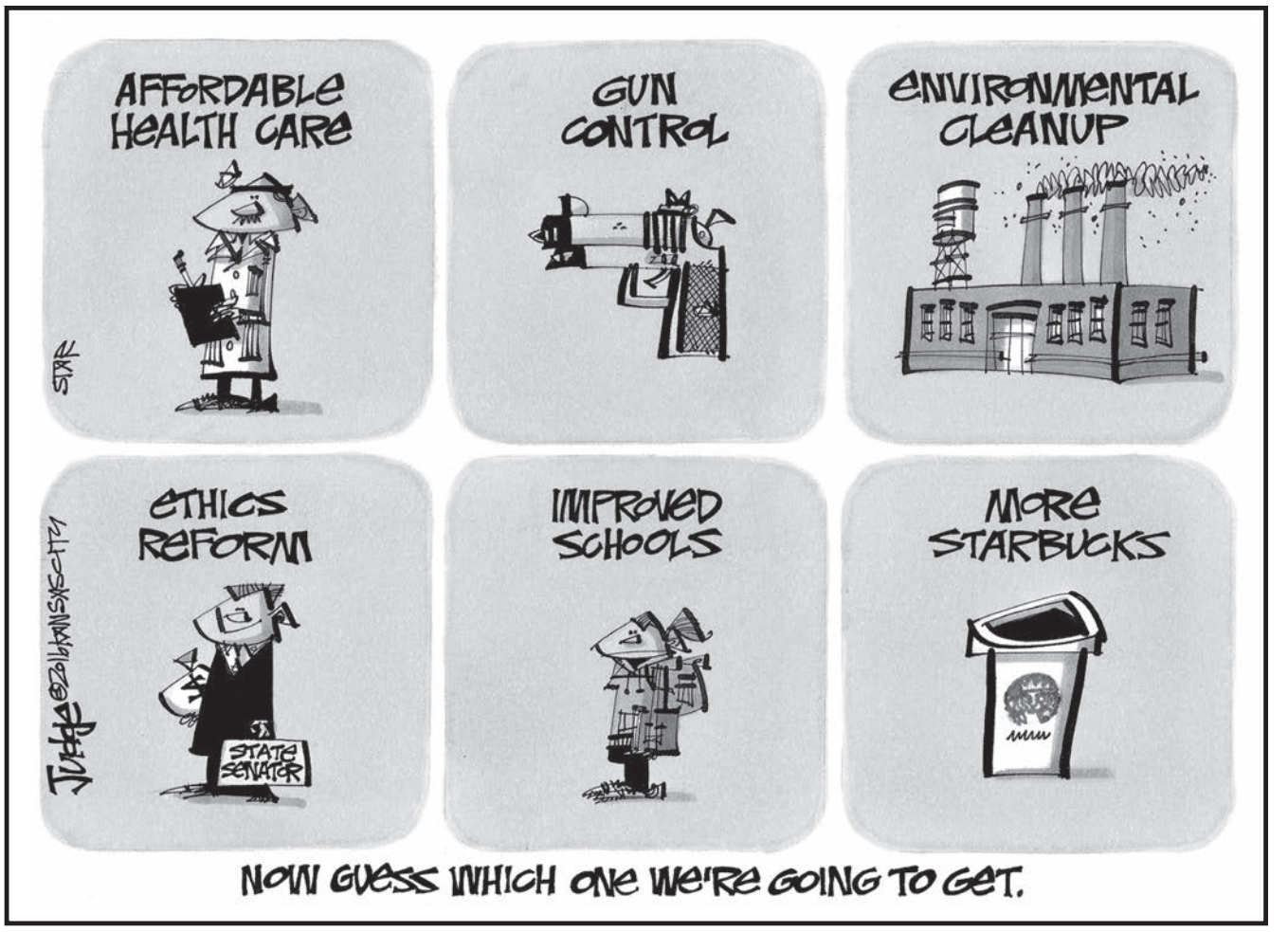


EDITORIAL

Sleepy drivers kill: An impairment that cannot be brushed aside

Society looks askance at the inebriated person who gets behind the wheel and the one who texts while driving. But no such opprobrium faces the groggy driver. Perhaps America is too tired to notice him.

A new study by AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, however, provides a wake-up call, saying Americans who drive sleep-deprived are as dangerous as those who drive drunk. Among the findings: Those who slept for fewer than four hours in a 24-hour period had an 11.5 percent elevated risk of getting into an accident while those who slept six to seven hours had an increased risk of 1.3 percent. According to one AAA official, driving on four hours' sleep is akin to getting behind the wheel with a blood-alcohol content of 0.12 or 0.15, well above the legal limit of 0.08.

One can only imagine what the risk would be for sleep-deprived drivers who also are manipulating the car's instruments, texting, talking on the phone or cruising along with limited visibility or bad weather.

Driving while tired is part of America's on-the-go culture and a trend not easily reversed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that adults get seven to eight hours of sleep per day, but many live chronically short on shuteye. However, "you cannot miss sleep and still expect to be able to function behind the wheel," said David Yang, the foundation's executive director.

The nation has cracked down on drunken driving and increased compliance with seat belt laws, so there is reason to believe that the behavior of sleepy drivers can be modified, too. Truckers are subject to federal rules mandating breaks for sleep and maximum driving periods to reduce driver fatigue.

Public awareness, such as that provided by the AAA report, can help. Promotion of public transportation and ride-sharing programs is another option. New penalties may be something to consider, too. (AAA reports that at least some police departments already track fatigue as a factor in accidents.)

The bottom line is that impairment is impairment, whether the cause is having too much alcohol or not catching enough winks. Drivers must think of the risk to others before getting behind the wheel. Make sense? Sleep on it.

(c)2016 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

With Trump in charge, where is history heading?

By SILVIO LACCETTI
Tribune News Service

Silvio Laccetti is a retired professor of history at Stevens Institute of Technology. Readers may send him email at slaccett@stevens.edu.

In recent years, we've heard a multitude of political and social action groups claim they're "on the right side of history."

President Barack Obama, for example, has often used this phrase in explaining his policies.

With Donald Trump set to enter the White House in the new year, we must wonder if he'll make similar claims. We also must ask where the nontraditional politician fits in the grand flow of history.

Many of the civilizations that have graced our earth saw history ending in apocalypse. But following the American and French revolutions, some folks, consumed in their intellectual powers, saw history heading in a different direction, toward the creation of a better world.

Chief among them was Georg Hegel, a noted German philosopher who died in 1831. For him, history was moved through conflicts of opposing positions. In his view, each conflict resolution brought forth a new stability, which in turn brought new conflicts until, step by step, the final state of history—a conflict-free, spiritually evolved society—could be reached.

In this worldview, being on the right side of history means helping to achieve that state of perfection.

Later, Karl Marx, an admirer of Hegel's work, contended that conflict and change were propelled by material forces. For him, the end of history was the communist society.

Today, the progressive left believes its program is on the right side of history and that all the others should be relegated to the dustbin of useless agendas. These progressives have been relentless and, upon winning political victories, have continued to expand their platform, step by step.

Soon-to-be inaugurated Trump, however, will likely throw a huge monkey wrench into the gears of their plan.

Make no mistake, Trump represents historical forces of a different sort, whose origins and dynamics have been around since, well, the beginning of history.

For more than 7,000 years, humanity has been ruled—with precious few exceptions—by an alliance of secular and religious powers: kings and priests. (Think of ancient Egypt, the ancient Near East, the Aztecs and Incas, or Louis XIV of France.) When the two factions have conflicted, we've had true church-state clashes. Today, such battles are often seen in less-consequential squabbles like those over public Christmas trees and where they can be placed and called.

In our world, the political power of kings and priests is more or less gone. So what took their place?

The royal powers to command and accomplish wound up in the hands of big businesses, bankers, corporate elites and their lobbyist minions. Priestly powers—such as promoting spirit-lifting ideologies and codes of conduct, justifying government, and spreading a gospel of economic opportunity—were seized by politicians.

And voila! A new cozy alliance was formed.

Trump, in taking his own path, has successfully combined elements of both royal and priestly functions in his persona.

As a multibillionaire, he will, upon taking his oath of office, become the richest president in our history—by far. He didn't, however, let big business run his campaign and therefore isn't beholden to its interests. He also broke with politicians in his Republican Party, warring with them throughout the campaign's various stages.

Trump towers over the old system, and we should expect a lot of surprises from this American original.

That said, I do suspect we'll have more Trump-like, colossal figures in our nation's future.

Relatively young multibillionaire tycoons, spawned by the computer age, seem hot to trot their social idealism and push history toward what they see as its final stage. And they are flush with the cash, foundations and entourages to try it. When will one run for president?

As for Trump, he's a proven businessman who articulates a strong vision for America. Combining executive power and effective messaging, he can override politicians when necessary but still has the supreme advantage of a Republican-controlled Congress. In short, he will have the power to get things done.

Moreover, he is highly adept at skillfully manipulating all the electoral tools of power in the electronic age, particularly social media, which he is apt to use in the predawn hours, garnering constant media attention.

All of this leaves little doubt Trump will be very powerful, even more than the media predicts at this time.

Which bring us back to our original question: Where is history heading?

For now, it's going wherever Trump takes it.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Brexit-Trump effect in Vienna and Rome: A tale of two cities

By TIBERIU DIANU
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

As Charles Dickens would have put it, after the day of Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times" for the cities of Vienna and Rome. The presidential re-run in Austria and the constitutional referendum in Italy have been expected to be a confirmation (or not) of the Brexit-Trump factor. As it turned out, it was a day with some bad news and some good news.

Austria

Presidential elections in Austria are held once every six years, under a two-round system, and the president is directly elected. Incumbent president Heinz Fischer (Social Democratic Party/SPO, center left) had served two terms and was not eligible for a third successive term.

On April 24, 2016, in the first round of the elections, Norbert Hofer (Freedom Party of Austria/FPO, rightwing populist) received the most votes, but under 50 percent, and Alexander Van der Bellen, a former SPO member (The Greens/DG, left), placed second. On May 22, in the second round runoff, Van der Bellen defeated Hofer after the postal ballots were counted.

The results were challenged and the Constitutional Court of Austria found that almost 78,000 absentee votes were improperly counted. The court annulled the results, and planned a re-vote of the second round on Oct. 2, which was eventually postponed to Dec. 4.

On Dec. 4, the voter turnout was estimated to be 74.1 percent and Van der Bellen was in the lead with 53.3 percent of votes, with Hofer second with 46.7 percent of votes. Hofer conceded the race to Van der Bellen in an election with a troubled history, which was called "a blow to the populist movement." Although Hofer was not specifically for the country's exit from the European Union, his opponent was perceived as a better choice for the Austrians, who support EU membership in "an overwhelming majority."

Hofer's victory would have been considered "of the same magnitude as Britain's vote for Brexit and the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president last month."

In spite of his defeat (at a narrow margin at almost 47 percent), Hofer said his party is "now in pole position for the parliamentary elections in 2018" and promised that he would run again for the next presidential elections, planned to be held in 2022.

Anyhow, Austria (where immigration has been a top issue) was a close call from the Brexit-Trump hot wave.

Italy

On April 8, 2014 the Prime Minister Matteo Renzi (Democratic Party/PD, center left) introduced a bill in the Senate that amended the Italian constitution, with the aim of reforming the composition and powers of the parliament (the bill reduced number of parliament members, the role of the Senate and the Regions). The bill was eventually approved by Senate on Jan. 20, 2016, and Chamber on April 12, 2016. According to the Article 138 of the Italian constitution, because the amendment failed to be approved by a majority of two-thirds in each house of parliament, it would become law if it received the support of a majority of votes cast in a national referendum.

If approved by referendum, the constitutional amendment would have achieved the most extensive reform—in terms of enlarging the government powers—since the end of monarchy (in 1946). Also, this was the third constitutional referendum in the history of the Italian Republic. Previously, there were referenda in 2001 (approving the amending law) and 2006 (rejecting the amending law).

Matteo Renzi, the youngest Italian prime minister (nominated in 2014, when he was just 39), regarded by some of being too arrogant, was confident in the parliamentary support of his agenda, and put a personal spin on the referendum (popularly called "Renzirendum"), claiming that he would resign in case of a negative vote.

As the first results have indicated, the referendum was a major blow of his policies. Around 60 percent of the Italians voted "no," Renzi conceded defeat on Dec. 5, before official results were announced, and he announced his resignation.

Now it is up to President Sergio Mattarella (also PD) to either call for immediate elections, as the leaders of the main opposition parties demanded (the Five Star Movement/M5S, populist, and the Lega Nord/LN, regionalist), or to opt for a caretaker government (of the same PD) until the May 2018 elections, in order to prevent a financial earthquake.

After Renzi's defeat, the euro dropped. However, the euro's drop was not as far as the British pound after the Brexit.

And so, Italy, the third EU economy (where unemployment and immigration have been the top issues), has become the first European country hit by the effect of the Brexit-Trump hot wave.

Tiberiu Dianu has published several books and over 100 articles in law, politics, and post-communist societies. He currently lives and works in Washington, D.C.

The left's hate affair with free speech

By JAY AMBROSE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Burn an American flag and then go to jail or lose your citizenship, says Donald Trump, who is trying his zany best to outdo the left in its war against free speech. He may have won the moment's battle but has a lot of catching up to do, and it's doubtful he will get there.

Consider the single worst policy position in the recently completed presidential campaign.

It came from Hillary Clinton. She said she wanted to rewrite the First Amendment to give politicians increased power to regulate political speech. The issue behind her oppressive solution was the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. A nonprofit outfit had wanted to show a film critical of Clinton. Campaign laws said nothing doing. Under questioning during a hearing, the government admitted the law would also allow banning of books under the same circumstances.

That's authoritarian stuff, and the court said corporations could spend what they like to get political messages out. Prime arguments against the ruling were that these big spenders could drown out other voices and that money was not speech. First off, we know from research that candidates who have the most money spent on their behalf are no more likely to win than those spending less.

In the campaign just past, this truth was demonstrated about as pointedly as possible. Jeb Bush vastly outspent other candidates in the 17-person Republican primary and still got vastly outvoted. At one point, Green Party candidate Jill Stein was outspending Trump on TV ads, and Clinton outspent him something like three to one.

Critics say money is not speech. No, but it is the means of speech. It can be crucial to speech. If you do not believe that, do you also think you could have a free press if there were laws outlawing advertising or other revenue sources?

As for rewriting the First Amendment to enable the outlawing of such corporate speech, it would inevitably increase the power of politicians all over the map to shut people up, no matter how precise the act's language. Even as the First Amendment is now written, the politicians behave half the time as if it is not there, as in global warming alarmists planning to use a law meant to imprison gangsters to zip the lips of people seeing no reason to subscribe verbally to their panic.

If you want something that is not strictly speaking speech, no matter what the Supreme Court has said, it is burning the flag. It is a mode of symbolic expression, in the same sense as it would be to raise a middle finger to a professor or a president. We do not allow certain words to be used on public airwaves. Flag-burning is worse than any of those words.

I myself have total contempt for flag-burners, although I would keep the practice legal because I believe the best response is societal castigation for behavior that is ugly and dumb but not directly harmful to others. Rule of law does not mean rule of everything by law unless totalitarianism is your ambition.

Jail or loss of citizenship? That's absurd.

But here comes the left, as in the Obama administration's threatening reporters with jail if they do not report sources, spying on other reporters and setting a record in denied data under the Freedom of Information Act.

What about universities that don't let conservative speakers visit, disallow open exchange on issues except in certain places, prohibit the use of perfectly ordinary words and require professorial warnings if the subject of the day might entail offensive possibilities?

Among the bunches of crazy regulations around the country is one that outlawed Bible study in a home lacking a proper permit.

Well, we still have the First Amendment to help protect us from some of the worst when it is done by government, at least if it is not rewritten.

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

If you suffer from gout

I got a nice note from a Facebook friend, thanking me for an article I wrote about gout. In case you missed the article, here is a brief summary. If you suffer from gout, this is important information.

First, almost everybody who suffers from gout is overweight. If you are fat, you should go on a diet pronto.

There are some simple steps to do this, but they're a challenge. You need to eat less, preferably one good meal per day; no snacking allowed unless it's celery or lettuce. You also need to eliminate sugar from your diet as much as possible. Skip the holiday candy; it contributes to gout. This also includes soft drinks, cakes, pies, and other delicious treats. Want to stop the gout pain? Skip the sugar, and this includes most fruit juices.

Also, exercise has been shown to help people with gout because it helps to normalize insulin levels. Therefore, it can help to reduce, or balance, sugar levels in your bloodstream. This is a good thing. Even walking 15 minutes a day is terrific.

Get some Bragg's apple cider vinegar; nothing else. Bragg's contains the "mother"—that is the apple pectin and other healthy bits. Put a tablespoon of the vinegar into some water and drink it. It will help your symptoms almost immediately. Do this three times a day.

Drink water with a ½ tsp of baking soda. This helps to neutralize the acid that contributes to gout. Do this twice a day. I don't recommend combining the baking soda with the vinegar, however. Drink these potions separately, and your gout will improve.

Visit SwansonVitamins.com and order "HiActives Tart Cherry." Two bottles of 60 caps will cost you $8, plus shipping. Cherry Extract is a sure-fire remedy for gout pain.

If you visit the Swanson site, also order Bromelain (an enzyme from pineapples) and vitamin C ("Supreme C"). Both of these nutrients can help with gout pain. You can also get Bromelain from eating fresh pineapple, but there's a lot of sugar also, so just take Bromelain supplements. You don't need more sugar in your diet!

Do not eat sardines or anchovies. These little fishes contain lots of uric acid, and you absolutely do not need it if you suffer from gout.

Drink a lot of water. The main cause of gout is excess uric acid, and drinking lots of water will help to flush it out. Even better, add a squeeze of fresh lemon to the water. Lemon is alkalizing in the body and can help to neutralize the acidic part of uric acid.

If you're in a restaurant, ask for water with a lemon wedge instead of a Coke, beer or wine. Soft drinks and alcohol are to be avoided, if you're really serious about resolving gout pain.

This next part is a huge challenge: cut way, way back on eating white rice, white bread, and any form of pasta (noodles). They convert to sugar (no good) in the digestive tract; plus eating these foods can make you fat. There is not enough nutrition in these foods to justify eating them.

I feel compassion for anybody who suffers from gout, but there are remedies available, and I have listed them above: lose weight, go for walks, drink Bragg's vinegar in water, drink baking soda in water, and be sure to get some cherry extract. Cut out sugar as much as possible (no diet drinks either!) and avoid white rice as much as possible.

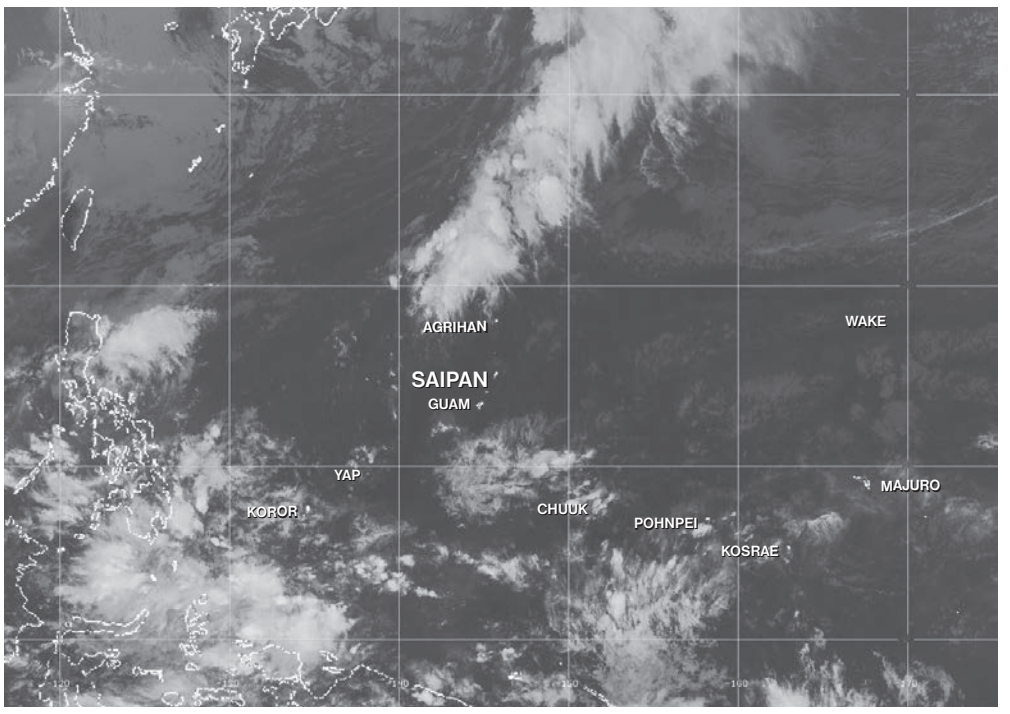
Russ Mason, M.S.
As Teo, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:53 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies and isolated showers prevail over the Marianas this morning. Fresh to strong winds are evident across the coastal waters. Latest buoy data shows seas between 7 and 9 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Morning clouds	81 / 89 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Yap	Partly sunny	80 / 85 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	80 / 83 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	80 / 86 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	81 / 86 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	81 / 84 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Morning clouds	58 / 67 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	21 / 41 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	57 / 68 °F
Honolulu	Light showers	62 / 76 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	47 / 53 °F
Los Angeles	Light showers	54 / 64 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	77 / 86 °F
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	52 / 67 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	68 / 79 °F
New York	Cloudy	23 / 34 °F
Osaka	Partly sunny	33 / 47 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	39 / 50 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	34 / 44 °F
Rome	Mostly sunny	37 / 57 °F
Salem	Overcast	27 / 35 °F
San Francisco	Heavy rain	53 / 59 °F
Seoul	Sunny	14 / 30 °F
Tokyo	Afternoon clouds	37 / 48 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	19 / 32 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
2:20 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.71 Feet
9:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.1 Feet
2:48 PM	LOW TIDE	1.09 Feet
7:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.1 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thursday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Thursday	-	7:26 AM	7:14 PM
Friday	-	8:26 AM	8:15 PM
Saturday	-	9:21 AM	9:14 PM
Sunday	-	10:12 AM	10:10 PM
Monday	-	10:58 AM	11:03 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Govt to require cars be able to talk to each other

By JOAN LOWY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—All new cars and light trucks would be able to talk wirelessly with each other, with traffic lights and with other roadway infrastructure under a rule the Transportation Department proposed Tuesday. Officials say the technology holds the potential to dramatically reduce traffic deaths and transform driving.

Vehicle-to-vehicle communications, or V2V, enables cars to transmit their locations, speed, direction and other information ten times per second. That lets cars detect, for example, when another vehicle is about to run a red light, is braking hard, changing lanes or coming around a blind turn in time for a driver or automated safety systems to prevent a crash.

The technology has the potential to prevent or mitigate the severity of up to 80 percent of collisions that don't involve alcohol or drugs, officials said.

"V2V will provide 360-degree situational awareness on the road," said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "We are carrying the ball as far as we can to realize the potential of transportation technology to save lives."

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said it is reviewing the proposal, but sees V2V as complementary to automated safety features that are increasingly being added to vehicles.

Automakers and the government have been working together on developing technology for more than a decade. Under the department's proposal, V2V systems would be required to "speak the same language" through standardized messaging.

The Federal Highway Administration plans to separately issue guidance to help transportation planners integrate two-way wireless technology into roadway infrastructure such as traffic lights, stop signs and work zones. Cars could communicate information on road conditions to the infrastructure, which could then be passed along to other vehicles as they come along. Traffic lights would know when to stay green to avoid unnecessary waiting and reduce congestion.

There is a 90-day comment period, and officials said they expect it will be about a year before a final rule is released.

The proposal calls for 50 percent of new vehicles to have the technology within two years after a final rule is issued, and 100 percent of vehicles with four years. It would still take years or even decades after that for the full potential of V2V to be realized. That's because V2V can prevent collisions only among vehicles equipped with the technology.

It takes decades for the entire fleet of vehicles on the road to turn over. But the process of spreading V2V throughout the fleet may go faster if, as expected, devices are developed that enable motorists to add the technology to older vehicles.

Some automakers aren't waiting for the final rule. General Motors has said previously that it plans to include V2V in some 2017 Cadillacs. The 2017 Mercedes E-Class sedans are also equipped with V2V.

AP

In this July 20, 2015 file photo, a pedestrian crosses in front of a vehicle as part of a demonstration at Mcity on its opening day on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, Mich.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM appeals ignition-switch ruling to Supreme Court

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. is asking the Supreme Court to overturn a lower court's ruling that held it responsible for ignition-switch injuries and deaths that occurred before its 2009 bankruptcy. The automaker petitioned the court Tuesday. GM knew about problems with the switches for more than a decade before it recalled 2.6 million cars in 2014. It has paid nearly $875 million to settle death and injury claims. In July, a U.S. appeals court ruled that GM's 2009 bankruptcy doesn't protect it from claims prior to that time. Plaintiffs' attorney Bob Hilliard has said at least 133 pre-bankruptcy cases could be brought against GM. GM says that departs from well-established bankruptcy law, which should have allowed the newly reorganized GM to obtain the old company's assets "free and clear" of liabilities.

ConAgra to pay $11.2M to settle tainted peanut butter case

ALBANY, Ga. (AP)—A ConAgra subsidiary pleaded guilty Tuesday and agreed to pay $11.2 million—including the largest criminal fine ever imposed for a foodborne illness in the United States—to resolve a decade-long criminal investigation into a nationwide salmonella outbreak blamed on tainted peanut butter. ConAgra admitted to a single misdemeanor count of shipping adulterated food. No individuals at the leading food conglomerate faced any charges in the 2006 outbreak, which sickened at least 625 people in 47 states. Disease detectives traced the salmonella to a plant in rural Sylvester, Georgia, that produced peanut butter for ConAgra under the Peter Pan label and the Great Value brand sold at Wal-Mart. In 2007 the company recalled all the peanut butter it had sold since 2004. Leo Knowles, president of ConAgra Grocery Products, offered no testimony as he entered the misdemeanor plea Tuesday on behalf of the Chicago-based corporation's subsidiary.

Trump's State pick comes from 'Exxon system' not Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Republicans in Washington bashed President Barack Obama's efforts to secure an Iran nuclear deal last year, Exxon Mobil was watching.

The oil giant's European competitors were preparing to enter Iran's oil business—something the company legally could not do with American sanctions still in place stemming from Iran's nuclear program. Exxon hired lobbyists to monitor the fight in Washington, though the company said it never took a position on whether the sanctions were appropriate.

Given Chief Executive Rex Tillerson's position on sanctions in general, it was scarcely needed.

"We always encourage the people who are making those decisions to consider the very broad collateral damage of who are they really harming with sanctions," Tillerson said at Exxon's 2014 shareholder meeting. Generally, "we don't find them to be effective," he said.

Announced Tuesday as Donald Trump's choice for secretary of state, Tillerson has no deep history of diplomatic experience so it's unclear how he'll handle the job if confirmed. But he's not a blank slate.

His work at Exxon has sometimes put him at odds with U.S. policy under Obama - and with key Republican positions on Iranian sanctions and Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Trump has promised his "number one priority" will be to either rigidly enforce or dismantle the Iran nuclear accord and treat the country as "the biggest sponsor of terrorism" worldwide.

But observers of Tillerson's business career say they expect his aversion to sanctions to stay in place.

"He's a product of the Exxon system," said Fadel Gheit, an energy industry analyst for Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. "He believed in a free market. And if you have a contract, you have to meet your obligation."

As part of the Exxon approach, the company adopted a strict policy that it deemed staying out of politics. If a government was stable—regardless whether it was corrupt - Exxon would work with it under strict contractual terms, said Gheit.

"What Rex Tillerson says is 'that's none of my business,'" he said.

Feds slap curbs on Wells Fargo, find 'living will' lacking

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators have determined that Wells Fargo has not done enough to patch the holes in the plan it would deploy if it fell into bankruptcy.

As a result, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. on Tuesday slapped restrictions on the bank, barring it from setting up new international banking businesses or buying any nonbank subsidiaries until it fixes the issues.

It's the latest blow to San Francisco-based Wells Fargo, which has been rocked by a scandal over its sales practices that triggered public outrage, brought federal and state investigations, and led to the resignation of its CEO.

The regulators' action Tuesday concerned the bank's so-called "living will" plan. Those are plans that outline how banks would reshape themselves in the event of failure. The government exercise is aimed at avoiding a repeat of the taxpayer bailouts of "too-big-to-fail" banks during the 2008 financial crisis.

It's unrelated to the scandal that stemmed from Wells Fargo employees opening of millions of unauthorized accounts in order to meet aggressive sales targets.

The eight biggest U.S. banks were required to submit disaster plans. Five were issued failing grades in April. Since then, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of New York Mellon and State Street managed to adequately fix the problems, the regulators said Tuesday.

Only Wells Fargo failed to get a passing grade.

The restrictions on Wells Fargo will remain in place until the deficiencies are corrected, the regulators said. If the bank doesn't meet the goal by March 31, an additional curb will be imposed limiting the size of its nonbank and brokerage assets to levels in effect on Sept. 30.

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0.58%	0.65%	0.95%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.33535	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7561	Russian Ruble	60.8478
British Pound	0.7902	Indian Rupee	67.565	Singapore Dollar	1.4258
Canadian Dollar	1.3128	Japanese Yen	115.206	South Korean Won	1169.83
Chinese Yuan	6.9102	Malaysian Ringgit	4.4413	Swiss Franc	1.011
Euro	0.9392	New Zealand Dollar	1.3859	Taiwan Dollar	31.747
		Philippine Peso	49.82	Thailand Baht	35.56

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Asia

AP sources: Trump offers interior secretary post to Zinke

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump has offered Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke the job of interior secretary, though it's unclear whether the congressman has accepted, two people with knowledge of the offer said Tuesday.

Zinke, 55, is a retired Navy SEAL who was awarded two Bronze Stars for combat missions in Iraq. He was an early supporter of Trump and met with the president-elect Monday at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

He just won re-election to a second term as Montana's only House member, and Republicans had mentioned him as a possible challenger to two-term Democratic Sen. Jon Tester in 2018.

Trump was also said to be considering Washington Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers for the job. She wrote on Facebook Tuesday that it was an "honor" to be invited to meet with Trump.

The people with knowledge of the offer to Zinke insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the transition process publicly.

Zinke, who serves on House Natural Resources and Armed Services committees, describes himself as "a steadfast advocate for Montana veterans and military personnel and families." He advocates greater use of public lands for energy production such as oil and natural gas.

Zinke has prioritized development of oil, gas and other resources on public lands and has advocated for state control of energy development on federal lands, a stance that some environmental groups say threatens national parks. Zinke has voted against efforts to designate new national parks that would diversify the National Park System.

Zinke attracted attention in the 2014 campaign for calling Hillary Clinton "the antichrist."

"Do I really believe that she is the antichrist? That answer would be 'no,'" Zinke said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But I do get a little emotional about Benghazi, and I like the rest of America want answers."

Rep. Ryan Zinke, right, R-Mont., arrives in Trump Tower, in New York, Monday, Dec. 12, 2016. AP

In September 2012, when Clinton was secretary of state, the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans were killed in the eastern city of Benghazi when militants stormed a U.S. diplomatic post and, hours later, fired on a CIA compound nearby. Some Republicans argue the U.S. military held back assets that could have saved lives and believe President Barack Obama and Clinton lied to the public about the nature of the attack.

Before being elected to Congress, Zinke served in the Montana State Senate, where he chaired the Education Committee and focused on advancing technology in the classroom, rural access to education and local control over schools.

Zinke graduated from the University of Oregon, where he played football and earned a degree in geology. He has master's degrees in business finance and global leadership from the University of San Diego.

Interior manages the nation's public lands and minerals and is the steward of 20 percent of the nation's lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges and other public lands. The department also supplies and manages water in the 17 Western states and upholds federal trust responsibilities to 566 federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

Zinke has raised doubts about climate change as "unsettled science." Yet he's also said in interviews that "something's going on" with the climate and promoted an energy strategy that includes renewable sources such as wind and solar would be prudent.

Trump keeps betting on big business

WASHINGTON (AP)—In selecting Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson as his secretary of state, President-elect Donald Trump is making the same bet he asked voters to make on him: that a track record of business accomplishment will translate into success in government.

Indeed, Trump, the first billionaire businessman to win the White House, is broadly testing that proposition across his administration. He's tapped fast food executive Andy Puzder to lead the Labor Department, billionaire investor Wilbur Ross for Commerce, financier Steven Mnuchin as Treasury secretary and Goldman Sachs President Gary Cohn as his top economic adviser.

But he's taking perhaps his biggest chance on Tillerson, pulling an executive from the rough-and-tumble world of oil production into the delicate arena of international diplomacy. If confirmed by the Senate—and his deep ties to Russia make that no sure thing—Tillerson will be at the center of discussions over the Syrian civil war, the intractable pursuit of peace in the Middle East, and potential conflicts with China, given Trump's early questioning of longstanding U.S. policy toward Beijing.

To Trump, the deals Tillerson has struck around the world for Exxon, and the relationships he has built doing so, are ample preparation for the challenges he would face as the nation's top diplomat. While Tillerson's ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin are drawing scrutiny on Capitol Hill, Trump has had good things to say about Putin, too, and Tillerson's connection doesn't appear to have given him any pause.

"Rex knows how to manage a global enterprise, which is crucial to running a successful State Department, and his relationships with leaders all over the world are second to none," Trump said Tuesday.

He's been making a similar case about himself all year as he sought to persuade voters that a real estate mogul and political novice had the skills to serve as president. He spent little time trying to show voters that his skills extended beyond the boardroom. Instead, he argued that experience was plenty.

As Trump set about putting his administration together, people close to him say he was quickly drawn to the idea of elite business leaders filling the Cabinet, along with those who have had success in areas outside of politics. He's tapped three retired generals for top jobs: James Mattis to head the Pentagon, John Kelly for the Department of Homeland Security and Michael Flynn as his national security adviser.

While business leaders have served in Cabinet posts under both Republican and Democratic presidents, the scope of private sector influence in Trump's burgeoning team is a stark contrast to modern predecessors. Most of President Barack Obama's Cabinet secretaries had public sector backgrounds, though Interior Secretary Sally Jewell served as CEO of the retail company REI and Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald is the retired CEO of Procter & Gamble.

Some of Trump's picks have come from a more traditional mold. Among them will be former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has been asked by Trump to lead the Energy Department, according to people with knowledge of the decision. Trump has also selected a handful of congressional lawmakers for other top jobs.

But Trump is said to have been particularly intrigued by the prospect of breaking the mold with his choice for secretary of state, one of the most powerful and prominent positions and one that often goes to a diplomatic veteran.

Tillerson came to his attention several years ago when he beat back a motion supported by the Rockefellers—Exxon's founding family—that would have split the chairman and chief executive position into two different jobs. The president-elect was drawn to Tillerson's confidence and Texas swagger, according to people with knowledge of the decision.

"Rex Tillerson is a very Trumpian-inspired pick because it's somebody who, like Donald Trump, has a career outside of politics, and he's somebody who is accustomed to making big deals and translating that into big impact," said Kellyanne Conway, Trump's senior advisers.

Ohio governor approves 20-wk. abortion ban, nixes heartbeat bill

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Republican Gov. John Kasich signed a bill Tuesday imposing a 20-week abortion ban while vetoing stricter provisions in a separate measure that would have barred the procedure at the first detectable fetal heartbeat.

The so-called heartbeat bill would have prohibited most abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy—or before many women know they are pregnant. Its provisions cleared the Republican-led Legislature during a lame-duck flurry last week after being tucked into separate legislation.

Similar measures elsewhere have faced legal challenges, and detractors in Ohio feared such legislation would lead to a costly fight in the courts. Opponents predicted it would be found unconstitutional, a concern Kasich shared.

Kasich, an abortion-rights opponent, chose instead to sign off on a 20-week ban similar to those now in effect in 15 states and blocked from enforcement in two others. The measures are based on the assertion that fetuses can feel pain then, which opponents characterize as scientifically unsound. Ohio lawmakers rejected a Democratic amendment that would have added exceptions for rape and incest.

The 20-week ban "is the best, most legally sound and sustainable approach to protecting the sanctity of human life," Kasich said.

Kasich said the heartbeat provision would have been struck down based on other federal court rulings. Enacting the law would also invite challenges to current Ohio abortion prohibitions and would mean costly litigation.

Chief: Fire department unaware of Oakland warehouse concerns

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Complaints mounted about the cluttered warehouse converted into an illegal artists' colony before a deadly blaze ripped through earlier this month, but few—if any—made it to the Oakland Fire Department.

Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed said Tuesday there are no city records showing her department receiving concerns about the building , which former residents, neighbors and others say was the subject of numerous calls to 911.

"We do not inspect buildings, we inspect businesses," Reed said during a press conference. "There were no indications this was an active business."

City administrator Sabrina Landreth, who also is in temporary charge of the Oakland Police Department, said officials are compiling and reviewing police records to determine how many times officers responded to complaints about the warehouse.

The deadliest structure fire in the U.S. in more than a decade broke out during a Dec. 2 late-night dance party in the cluttered warehouse. It killed 36 people. The building had been converted to art studios and illegal living spaces, and former denizens said it was a death trap of piled wood, furniture, snaking electrical cords and only two exits.

Investigators said that they still haven't determined what started the fire, though they say it didn't appear to be intentionally set. Instead, investigators have been focusing on electrical appliances plugged into the rear of the building where the fire started.

The electrical system is still part of the analysis of what sparked the fire, said Jill Snyder, the special agent in charge with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Asia

Out-of-school Afghan kids risk early marriage, child labor

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Children of Afghan families returning from Pakistan who don't go to school and have no access to education are increasingly at risk of early marriage and child labor, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

The survey by Save the Children reveals an alarming crisis in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province where the polling took place among returnees from Pakistan. It warns the situation could deteriorate further as more than 3,500 Afghans return from Pakistan on a daily basis after Islamabad tightened regulations on those living illegally in the country.

So far this year, more than 650,000 Afghans have returned from Pakistan, with the majority planning to stay in Nangarhar, at least until the end of winter. Hundreds of thousands more Afghans are expected to be repatriated in the coming months.

The survey is based on 379 interviewees conducted by Save the Children between Oct. 28 and Nov. 8 in five districts in Nangarhar. The poll gave a 5 percent margin of error.

Among the returnees, many have no money and lack any sort of documents or ID papers. Parents facing poverty often feel the only stable choice they can make is to arrange a marriage for their child or to bring the children into the workforce, the survey found.

"We are really concerned about the risks that are threatening the children and the future of the children if the situation continues," said Bahirullah Wyaar, an adviser at Save the Children in Kabul. "If the children, especially the girls, do not have access to education, it puts them at the risk of early marriages."

Also, many of the poorest of the poor have no resources, which may "force the children to work on the streets," Wyaar added.

In June, Pakistan's government extended a deadline for Afghan refugees deemed to be staying in Pakistan illegally to return home by the end of the year or face deportation.

But although Kabul welcomed the extension, Afghanistan's refugees and repatriation minister, Sayed Hossain Alemi Balki, said he wanted it extended until December 2017. He also said Pakistani police were harassing refugees, and said Islamabad should not forcibly repatriate Afghan refugees when the new deadline expires.

Millions of Afghans fled their country to neighboring Pakistan and Iran during the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the brutal civil war of 1992-1996 between U.S.-backed rebel groups that fought the Soviets and again after the Taliban came to power in 1996 - creating one of the world's largest refugee populations. Both Pakistan and Iran have been pressing for them to leave.

Pakistani authorities have also said that a number of militants are hiding in refugee camps, creating a security risk for the country.

In the Save the Children survey, Ana Locsin, the group's director in Afghanistan, is quoted as saying that "part of the problem is that many repatriated families left stable jobs and lives in Pakistan and are now watching the few savings they have dwindle away knowing they have little prospect of income."

"Many are living out in the open, or in tents, so they have no real semblance of shelter, let alone security," she added. "They often feel they have little choice but to send their child to find work or to marry off their daughters."

AP

In this March 4, 2012 file photo, an Afghan displaced child carries another child on his back after picking up food rations from a truck organized by the World Food Program in Kabul, Afghanistan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China warns Trump ignoring one-China policy could hurt peace

BEIJING (AP)—China says any change in U.S. policy favoring formal recognition of Taiwan will "seriously" damage peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and undermine relations between Beijing and Washington. The comments from the spokesman for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office Wednesday follow President-elect Donald Trump's remarks over the weekend that he didn't feel "bound by a one-China policy" unless the U.S. could gain benefits from China in trade and other areas. Under the one-China policy, the U.S. recognizes Beijing as China's government and maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan, which broke from the Chinese mainland in 1949. Spokesman An Fengshan said breaching the one-China principle "will seriously affect peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

Philippines' Duterte begins Cambodian state visit

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has arrived on a state visit to Cambodia, where a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen will bring together two Southeast Asian leaders known for their tough-guy approach to governing. The two leaders will witness the signing of memoranda of understanding on cooperation in sports and combating transnational crime. Their talks are also expected to touch on the South China Sea, where the Philippines has a territorial dispute with China, which is Cambodia's closest ally. Duterte, who been president since June, has been directing a war on illegal drugs which has resulted in the deaths of thousands of suspected drug dealers and users. Hun Sen has led his country for three decades of authoritarian rule by directing violence and intimidation at his political opponents.

Malaysia, Singapore sign pact to build high-speed railway

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia and Singapore signed an agreement Tuesday to build a high-speed railway that would cut travel time between Kuala Lumpur and the city-state to just 90 minutes by 2026. Currently, it takes at least four hours to travel by car. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and his Singaporean counterpart, Lee Hsieng Loong, witnessed the signing of the agreement. Officials said bidding for the 350-kilometer (218-mile) rail project is expected to be called by the end of 2017, with operations slated to begin in 2026. No cost estimates were announced. The rail line will "transform the way we interact, socialize and do businesses," Lee said at a news conference. "It is a complex project and we are making long-term commitments, but there is political will on both sides. I'm looking to take my first train ride to Putrajaya in 10 years."

Thai pardon expected to free Swiss man in 1MDB scandal

BANGKOK (AP)—A Swiss man connected with Malaysia's massive 1MDB financial scandal is expected to be freed from a Thai prison under a royal pardon applying to thousands of inmates, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Worasit Piriyawiboon said Xavier Justo was covered by the pardon issued by King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradevarangkun because he has less than a year left to serve.

Justo was convicted in August last year of blackmailing his former employer, a Saudi oil exploration company, by threatening to reveal stolen documents. The court said Justo had agreed to keep corporate information confidential when his employment at PetroSaudi International was terminated, but then threatened to sell the information he had if they did not pay him 2.5 million Swiss Francs ($2.47 million).

Police said Justo confessed to handing over documents involving the oil company's dealings with Malaysian state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad, or 1MDB, to a London-based Malaysian anti-government news website, Sarawak Report. He was arrested at a residence he maintained on the Thai resort island of Samui. His six-year sentence was cut in half because he pleaded guilty, and in August this year was commuted for good behavior to serve only an additional 11 months.

The 1MDB fund has been at the center of investigations in the U.S. and several countries over allegations of a global embezzlement and money-laundering scheme. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak started the fund shortly after taking office in 2009 to promote economic development projects, but the fund accumulated billions in debt.

The U.S. Justice Department says at least $3.5 billion has been stolen from 1MDB by people close to Najib and initiated action in July to seize $1.3 billion it says was taken from the fund to buy assets in the U.S.

"Thai inmates who received the royal pardons are expected to be released on Dec 15. Justo is expected to be released shortly after that and he should be able to go home before Christmas," said lawyer Worasit, explaining that Thai inmates usually receive their pardons ahead of foreigners.

"Thai law does not allow Justo to stay in Thailand after his release and it is policy to send foreign inmates who have been released back to their home country," he said.

Around 120,000 inmates are eligible to have their sentences cut and around 30,000 inmates could be eligible for pardons, Kobkiat Kasivivat, deputy director-general of Thailand's Corrections Department, said Tuesday. The pardons, decreed Saturday, mark the recent ascension to the throne of King Vajiralongkorn after the Oct. 13 death of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Aftershocks drive Indonesians from homes in quake-hit Aceh

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The number of people displaced by last week's earthquake in Indonesia's Aceh province has jumped to more than 85,000 as aftershocks drive people from their homes, the disaster agency said Tuesday.

Spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said there have been nearly 90 aftershocks since last Wednesday's magnitude 6.5 earthquake.

"People are afraid and worried about the aftershocks and feel safer in the shelters," he said.

Providing clean water is still a top priority because many wells were damaged by the quake and their water is now undrinkable, Nugroho said.

Nearly 5,000 relief personnel are part of the disaster response concentrated on three districts in northeast Aceh.

The earthquake killed 102 people and injured nearly 900 others. It destroyed or damaged more than 11,000 buildings, mainly homes, but also schools and dozens of mosques.

The search for survivors has effectively ended and the focus in flattened towns is clearing up debris.

Killer quakes occur regularly in the region, where many live with the terrifying memory of a giant Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake that struck off Sumatra. The magnitude 9.1 quake triggered a devastating tsunami that killed more than 100,000 Acehnese.

World

Rebels to evacuate Aleppo in surrender deal as fighting ends

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels reached a cease-fire deal to evacuate from eastern Aleppo in an effective surrender on Tuesday, as Russia declared all military action had stopped and the Syrian government had assumed control of the former rebel enclave.

The dramatic developments, which appeared to restore the remainder of what was once Syria's largest city to President Bashar Assad's forces after months of heavy fighting and a crippling siege, followed reports of mass killings by government forces closing in on the final few blocks still held by the rebels.

Damascus confirmed the evacuation deal and the U.N. envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, called for immediate access to the former rebel enclave to confirm the end of military operations and to oversee the safe departure of tens of thousands of civilians and opposition fighters. He was at the Security Council where an emergency meeting for Aleppo was underway.

Russia's U.N. ambassador Vitaly Churkin took to the floor near the end of the session at the U.N. Security Council to announce fighting had ended.

AP
A Lebanese woman holds a placard, during a sit-in to express solidarity with residents of the Syrian city of Aleppo, in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

"According to the latest information that we received ... military actions in eastern Aleppo are over," Churkin said. "The Syrian government has re-established control over eastern Aleppo."

Minutes earlier, he had announced that "all militants" and members of their families, as well as those wounded in the fighting, were being evacuated through "agreed corridors in directions that they have chosen voluntarily," including the rebel stronghold of Idlib province.

As word spread of the deal, celebrations broke out in the government-controlled western sector of Aleppo, with convoys of cars driving around honking their cars and waving Syrian flags from the windows.

Retaking Aleppo, which has been split between rebel and government control since 2012, would be Assad's biggest victory yet in the civil war. Aleppo, the country's former commercial powerhouse, has long been regarded as a major gateway between Turkey and Syria and the biggest prize in the conflict.

The agreement Tuesday came after world leaders and aid agencies issued dramatic appeals on behalf of trapped residents, and the U.N. human rights office said that pro-government forces reportedly killed 82 civilians as they closed in on the last remaining rebel areas.

That and other reports of mass killings, which could not be independently confirmed, reinforced fears of atrocities in the final hours of the battle for the city.

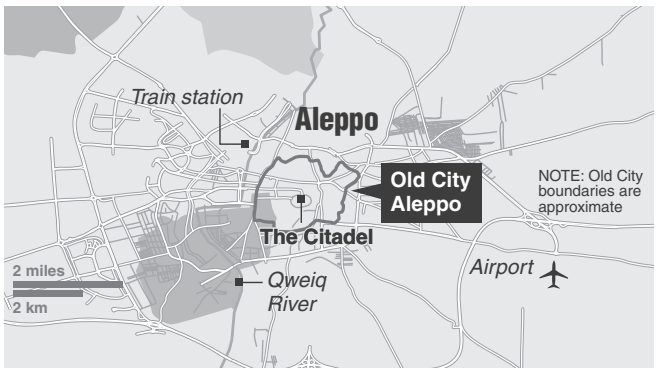
U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the emergency meeting he had received "credible reports" of civilians killed by intense bombing and summary executions by pro-government forces.

Rebels driven from 98 percent of Aleppo

Syria's military said Monday it has regained control of 98 percent of eastern Aleppo, as government forces close in on the last remaining area of a rebel enclave packed with fighters as well as tens of thousands of civilians.

Rebel control | Government control | Kurdish control

As of Dec. 12



Source: BBC, AP
Graphic: TNS

UNICEF: 80,000 children will starve to death in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nearly a half million children will face starvation in northeastern Nigeria next year and 80,000 will die if they don't get treatment in the humanitarian crisis created by Boko Haram's Islamic uprising, the U.N. Children's Agency warned Tuesday.

"What is already a crisis can become a catastrophe," UNICEF executive director Anthony Lake said.

His statement said the 400,000 children at risk of starvation represent just a fraction of the suffering among some 2.6 million refugees in the seven-year insurgency that has killed more than 20,000 people.

"If they do not receive the treatment they need, one in five of these children will die," Lake said.

"Large areas of Borno state are completely inaccessible to any kind of humanitarian assistance. We are extremely concerned about the children trapped in these areas," he added.

Boko Haram attacked a military-escorted humanitarian convoy in July about 70 kilometers (45 miles) from Maiduguri, the birthplace of the insurgency, wounding a UNICEF worker, two other aid workers and two soldiers.

A rocket-propelled grenade slammed into the windshield of a bullet-proof vehicle, one that Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has accused the agency of buying instead of spending money on people in need. UNICEF said the vehicle was a donation.

Lake spoke just days after Buhari accused the U.N. and private international aid agencies of exaggerating the crisis to seek donations. Buhari declared that Boko Haram was "technically defeated" a year ago and appears fixed on maintaining that fiction.

While soldiers from a multinational force of Nigeria and neighboring countries have pushed the extremists out of towns and many villages they occupied, attacks on military outposts and suicide bombings of soft targets continue.

Large protests in Poland as leader vows to stifle opposition

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Thousands of anti-government protesters marched Tuesday from the former Communist party headquarters in Warsaw to the offices of Poland's current ruling party, a symbolic route chosen to underline the charge that the government is destroying democracy.

The march, held under the slogan "Stop the Devastation of Poland," marked the 35th anniversary of martial law being declared by the communist regime in 1981 to crush the Solidarity democracy movement.

It was organized by the Committee for the Defense of Democracy, or KOD, a civic rights group that arose in reaction to the policies of the ruling Law and Justice party.

The populist party with a conservative streak has moved quickly since winning control of the government last year to solidify its power by weakening the judiciary and assuming more influence over state media, among other steps. The European Union and the United States have criticized the moves.

"I don't like the way things are going in Poland," said Joanna Grabowska, a 63-year-old taking part in the march as others around her whistled and waved Polish and European Union flags. "I am terrified that democracy and freedom of expression are being taken from us."

Members of the political opposition, including former Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz of the Civic Platform party, were among the marchers, who carried banners reading "We will not surrender freedom."

Government supporters stood on the sidelines of Tuesday's march shouting "red swine" and other insults.

Earlier in the day, Law and Justice Chairman Jaroslaw Kaczynski said he does not like the style of political debate in Poland and said government leaders would make "attempts to introduce some kind of order into the opposition's activity."

Kaczynski, a former prime minister widely recognized as the power behind the government, did not specify the measures or their timing, but said he expects they will be criticized by many as efforts to limit freedom and democracy.

At the march, people said his words were worrying.

"I would expect only bad things," Grabowska said. "This is some kind of sick policy. I don't understand it and it's hurting Poland's interest."

Mexico Senate passes medical pot bill; sent to lower house

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a bill approving the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, the latest in a series of legal changes and court rulings that have somewhat relaxed cannabis laws in Mexico.

The Senate said in a statement summarizing the debate that the measure directs the Health Department to "design public policies to regulate the medicinal use of this plant and its derivatives."

The legislation now goes to the lower Chamber of Deputies for consideration.

Sen. Cristina Diaz Salazar, a member of President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party, said the measure aims to solve the urgent needs of Mexicans who are unable to access pot-based medicines.

According to the summary, she called it "a historic step."

Some lawmakers argued that the bill does not go far enough because it does not cover individual cultivation of marijuana, other narcotics such as opium paste and poppies, or broader issues such as the war on drugs.

Sen. Armando Rios Piter of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party voted no. He acknowledged the legislation would benefit patients suffering from some chronic diseases, but called it a "very small" achievement that fails to address "the failure of the policy of combatting organized crime."

"To celebrate that we are making a material change on marijuana would be fooling ourselves at this stage of the game," Rios Piter was quoted as saying.

In the decade since then-President Felipe Calderon launched a militarized offensive against Mexico's drug cartels, more than 100,000 people have been killed and some 30,000 more are missing.

Starting last year the Mexican government began granting permits letting some patients import medicinal marijuana products. It has also decriminalized small amounts of marijuana and issued several permits for people to cultivate and possess pot for personal use.

Those permits have only covered the specific individuals involved, however, rather than blanket laws applicable to all of Mexican society.

The bill passed Tuesday would also authorize cultivation of marijuana plants for medical and scientific purposes and establish that industrial products with concentrations of 1 percent THC or less would be legal to buy, sell, import and export.

It was approved on a vote of 98-7, with one abstention.

Environment

Titans of new industry spring $1 billion clean energy fund

By DAVID KOENIG
AP BUSINESS WRITER

DALLAS (AP)—Some big names with big money say they plan to put more than $1 billion into developing technologies that will reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and lower the price of energy.

Bill Gates said the fund plans to make its first investments next year and run for 20 years. A year ago, the co-founder of Microsoft Corp. started the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, whose members include Mark Zuckerberg, George Soros and Richard Branson, with a commitment to invest in new types of energy.

Monday's announcement comes less than a week after President-elect Donald Trump announced he will nominate the attorney general of Oklahoma, a climate-change skeptic, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

The fund, however, was in the works long before the election. It is the investing venture of a coalition formed in November 2015.

Gates is the chairman of a group of 20 investors who call their fund Breakthrough Energy Ventures. They want to speed innovation in the $6 trillion energy market. At the top of the investors' list of criteria: nurture technologies with the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least a half gigaton.

Gates said the fund plans to hire staff and make initial investments next year. The fund identified several areas for investment, and Gates highlighted an even more-targeted approach aimed at helping startups that can reduce emissions from electricity generation, transportation, and industrial processes in steel-making, cement production and agriculture.

"This fund is to get things at an early stage, so we're willing to take high risk," Gates said in an interview.

Given the net worth of the individuals involved, Gates acknowledged that $1 billion might not seem like an overwhelming commitment.

"When you meet these guys, they won't have sold one of their cars. There is no deep sacrifice involved here," Gates said. He left open the possibility that the pool of money could grow, either from his investors or partners such as corporations and universities.

AP

In this Monday, June 27, 2016, file photo, philanthropist and co-founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, leaves after a meeting with France's President Francois Hollande at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

The initial $1 billion sum, he said, is still much bigger than any previous clean-energy fund and is enough to signal the investors' seriousness.

Gates has said that the investments he makes won't matter as much as the choices that governments make. He believes there is broad support in Washington for energy research and development. But, he added, "it's hard to say" whether clean energy continues to get government incentives or what energy policies a Trump administration might pursue.

"I had a phone call with Trump" a couple weeks ago, Gates said. "It wasn't some super-long call. I talked a little bit about the innovation in various spaces that got me excited. He seemed to think innovation might be a fruitful area and said that we should talk more. At some point we'll get into some depth."

Gates said he is absolutely convinced that goals for reducing carbon emissions will be met.

"If you told me there was no innovation and not the kind of private, risk-taking capital we've got here, then I would be very pessimistic because year after year the problem would get worse," he said. "I see the work going on ... we are going to surprise people with the kind of innovation that will come out of the Breakthrough Energy Ventures investment pool."

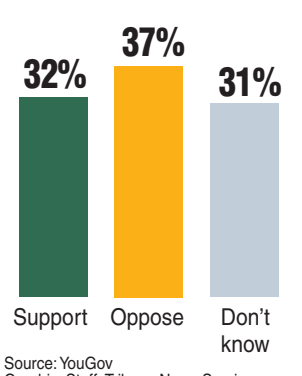
Separately, a report Monday suggested that a growing number of investors are considering dumping fossil-fuel stocks.

Arabella Advisors said institutions and individual investors with more than $5 trillion in assets are pledging to divest some of their holdings, double the amount of 15 months ago.

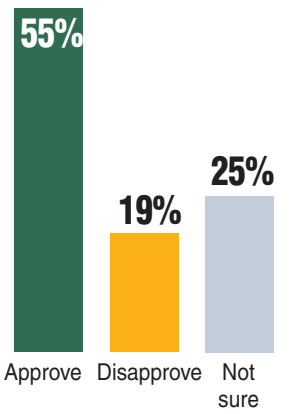
Environmentalists pointed to the report as evidence that the notion of divesting oil and coal holdings has spread from a few colleges to mainstream investors such as insurance companies and pension funds.

Divided on Dakota Access Pipeline

Do you support or oppose the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline?



Do you approve or disapprove of the Army Corps of Engineers decision to withhold a permit for the pipeline under a lake near an Indian reservation, meaning that the pipeline will need to be rerouted?



Source: YouGov
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Hilaria Kisa Santos

APRIL 18, 1943 - DECEMBER 4, 2016

In her new life she joins
Husband: †Nicolas Baza Santos
Parents: †Enrique Ninaisen & †Luisa Babauta Kisa
Parents-in-Law: †Ramon Agulto
& †Magdalena Baza Santos
Brothers: †Manuel Babauta Kisa
Brother-in-Law: †Ramon Basa Santos
Sister-in-Law: †Maria S. Sutherland
†Francisca B. Santos

Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her
Children:
Martin C. Dueñas & **Ellen K. Santos**
(Marlaine, Marilynn, Jessylyn & Benny, Martin Jr., Hilaria)
Nic & **Maggie S**. Sablan (Juanet, Nicolas)
Vivian K. Santos
Ken & Arsanti Kisa (Takumi)

Brothers/Sisters, Spouses:
†Manuel B. & Antonia I. Kisa & Family
Felix & Trinidad Kisa & Family
John & Jovita Masiwemai & Family
Doroteo & Diane Kisa & Family
Lourdes Kisa & Family
Herman & Maria Torres & Family

Brother/Sisters-in-Law
Ignacio & Eduvices S. Benavente & Family
Ken & †Maria S. Sutherland & Family
†Ramon B. & Bernardita Santos & Family
Francisca B. Santos & Family

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at Kristo Rai Church from 8:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services
at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

Thank you & Si Yuus Ma'ase from the Family

Life & Style

Cosby shows wit, mental agility at court hearing

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers insist the 79-year-old actor has vision and memory problems that make it difficult for him to help defend himself in his upcoming sexual assault trial.

But the actor seemed mentally fit on Tuesday in a suburban Philadelphia courtroom as he shouted out answers to questions meant for the prosecutor.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele was trying to recall where one alleged assault took place, when Cosby helpfully announced that "the Drake (Hotel) is in Chicago."

At another point, Cosby told the judge, who was trying to figure out his age, that he was born in 1937. On July 12th.

Prosecutors at this week's pretrial hearing are trying to show that Cosby, who was once known as "America's Dad" for his top-rated family sitcom, "The Cosby Show," had a history of drugging and molesting young women. He is charged with sexually assaulting one woman in 2004, but prosecutors are hoping to call 13 other accusers to testify at his spring trial.

"The defendant has engaged, over the course of decades, in a signature pattern of non-consensual sexual assaults on young women who were in an unconscious state due to an intoxicant that the defendant administered to them," Steele argued.

Cosby's lawyers want the accusers barred from taking the stand. The defense is expected to attack their credibility when the hearing resumes on Wednesday.

AP

Bill Cosby departs after a pretrial hearing in his sexual assault case at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa., Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

Judge Steven O'Neill must decide whether to permit all or some of the women to testify under a state law that allows prosecutors to call witnesses of alleged prior bad acts. The accusers include onetime aspiring actresses, a cocktail waitress and a flight attendant, and are among 50 women who have come forward with accusations against Cosby since prosecutors reopened the 2004 case last year.

Tuesday's hearing was testy from the start, with the judge twice warning the lawyers to maintain decorum after courtroom shouting matches that centered on the defense team's practice of publicizing the names of the accusers.

Steele clashed with Cosby lawyer Brian McMonagle over the defense's insistence on identifying accusers by name in public documents and a court hearing. Steele suggested that Cosby's lawyers were publicizing them in an attempt to intimidate the women.

McMonagle said many of the women had already gone public with their allegations.

"These are witnesses in a trial. They are not children," he argued.

The judge ultimately ruled that Cosby's lawyers could identify 11 of the women by name since they had already told their stories publicly. He said two of the women have remained out of the spotlight and should not be identified in court.

Later, Steele blew up at the defense over the positioning of a projection screen, saying Cosby's lawyers had it placed so the women's names would be seen by dozens of reporters in the courtroom gallery.

McMonagle said courtroom staff positioned the screen, but he agreed to remove accusers' names from a planned presentation.

The judge said he would be forced to call in sheriff's deputies if the lawyers couldn't behave.

The case began a decade ago when Temple University employee Andrea Constand filed a police complaint against Cosby, her friend and mentor, over an encounter at his home. A prosecutor at the time declined to file charges.

Authorities reopened the case last year after scores of women raised similar accusations and after Cosby's damaging deposition testimony from Constand's lawsuit became public. The trial judge last week said the deposition was fair game at trial, arming prosecutors with Cosby's testimony about his affairs with young women, his use of quaaludes as a seduction tool and his version of the sexual encounter with Constand.

The judge must walk a fine line in weighing the accusers' testimony, given a 2015 state Supreme Court ruling that threw out a Roman Catholic Church official's child-endangerment conviction because the Philadelphia trial judge let too many priest abuse victims testify about the alleged church cover-up.

Prosecutors ask judge to allow Cosby's accusers to testify

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Bill Cosby used his fame to gain the trust of women before knocking them out with pills and drinks so he could sexually assault them, prosecutors argued Tuesday as they sought to persuade a judge to allow 13 of his accusers to testify in his upcoming sexual assault trial.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele told a judge he wants the accusers' testimony to show Cosby had a lengthy history of drugging and molesting young women.

"The defendant has engaged, over the course of decades, in a signature pattern of non-consensual sexual assaults on young women who were in an unconscious state due to an intoxicant that the defendant administered to them," Steele argued.

Cosby, who is 79 and has been married for decades, is charged with sexually assaulting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

His lawyers want the accusers barred from taking the stand at his spring trial. The defense is expected to attack the women's credibility and relevance when his lawyers make their arguments on Wednesday.

Judge Steven O'Neill must decide whether to permit all or some of the women to testify under a state law that allows prosecutors to call witnesses of alleged prior bad acts. The accusers include onetime aspiring actresses, a cocktail waitress and a flight attendant and are among 50 women who have come forward with accusations against Cosby since prosecutors reopened the 2004 case last year.

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Felicity Jones joins ranks of classic Star Wars heroines

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—"Star Wars" gets a bad rap for being a boy's club, and sometimes rightfully so, but the truth of the matter is that women have always been an integral part of the George Lucas-created world and the franchise's fan base. On screen, the names Leia, Amidala and Rey are as instantly recognizable and known as any others—and none were ever just playing "the girl."

With this now 39-year-old tradition in mind, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" introduces a new heroine to the ranks—Jyn Erso, an abandoned child of war who must decide what she believes in as the world devolves into chaos. Director Gareth Edwards talked about developing the character and settling on the idea that "Jyn isn't just a woman—she's a person."

Jones

"I wanted to make a character that I would want to be. Not to fancy her or want to marry her, but want to be her. It was just a cool person," Edwards continued.

He and the team at Lucasfilm settled on English actress Felicity Jones, 33, to play the part. Already an Oscar nominee for her portrayal of Jane Hawking in "The Theory of Everything," Jones had been making a name for herself in smaller projects, like the indie romance "Like Crazy." But recently, she's been dipping her toes in larger-scale films, like "The Amazing Spider-Man" sequel.

Lucasfilm head Kathleen Kennedy was drawn to Jones's ability to bring a sense of gravitas and importance to everything, while also exhibiting a "real whimsy."

"For years I've been constantly looking for these kinds of parts and these kinds of films and the opportunity to make it on such a large scale was pretty hard to turn down," said Jones, who also appears in the upcoming fantasy tale "A Monster Calls" and opposite Tom Hanks in "Inferno."

Jyn, unlike the other classic "Star Wars" heroines, gets the full weight of an origin story in "Rogue One," out Friday. Her father, Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), is a scientist who once worked for the Empire, left that life behind and, at the beginning of the film, gets drawn back in to help finish the Death Star—leaving his young daughter behind to fend for herself.

As an adult, she's forced to confront her past in various ways, especially when she becomes entangled with the rebel alliance.

"I like her determination," Jones said. "She doesn't let go of something until she succeeds. She is very, very focused and tenacious in the face of when she's set a task."

Jones trained intensively to portray this hardened fighter working closely with stunt teams who she said spent hours humoring her need to practice constantly. Fittingly, her costume is not a fussy dress or a metal bikini, but rather one of a warrior.

"Jyn is someone who's had to survive on her own and at any moment she's going to have to be running away from someone, she's going to have to defend herself physically," Jones said. "She has really built a little shell around herself, so her costume had to reflect the needs of her life and unfortunately she's not going to that many parties."

And while Jyn is not a princess or a queen or, well, whatever Rey turns out to be, Jones does think she shares similarities with those who came before her.

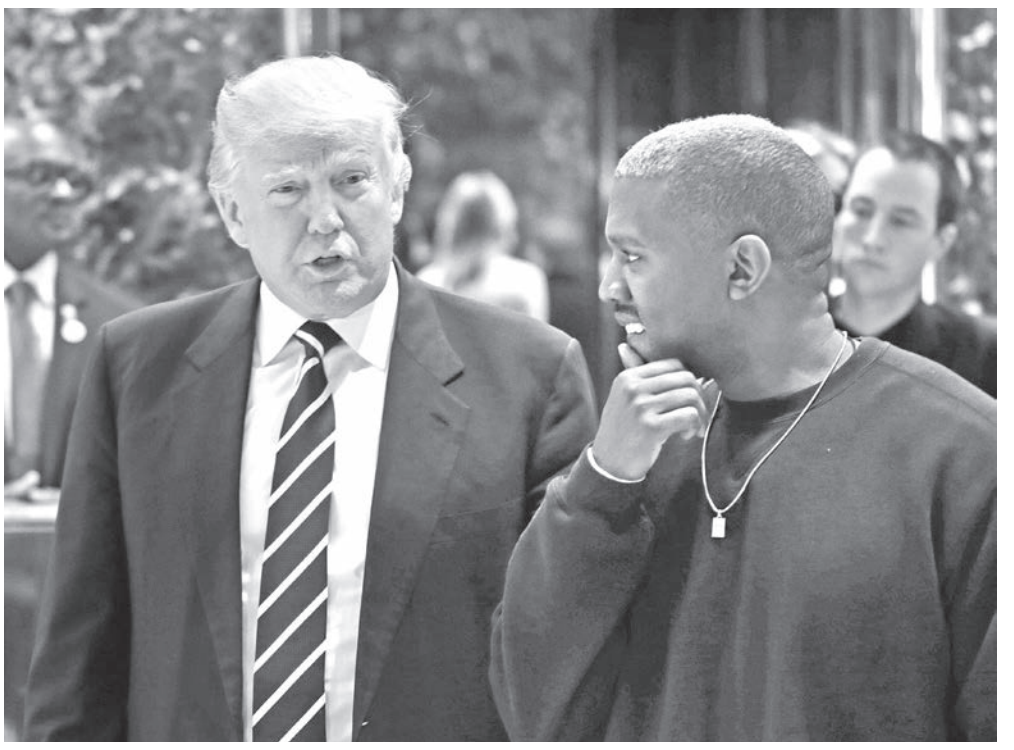
"They are quite forthright but they are instinctive and they kind of—they don't mess around," Jones said. "She's very true to the other 'Star Wars' heroines in that way."

Kanye West returns to Twitter to talk about Trump meeting

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West returned to social media for the first time since his hospitalization to talk about his meeting with Donald Trump.

West wrote on Twitter that he met with Trump Tuesday to "discuss multicultural issues" that included "bullying, supporting teachers, modernizing curriculums, and violence in Chicago."

"I feel it is important to have a direct line of communication with our future President if we truly want change," West wrote. He followed with a post that read "#2024," an apparent reference to a revised plan to run for president in 2024, instead of 2020, when Trump could seek a second term.



AP

President-elect Donald Trump talks with Kanye West in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016.

Trump said after the Tuesday meeting that he and West were "just friends" and called the musician a "good man." He said they discussed "life." The two did not answer questions about whether West would perform at the Inauguration.

West stood silently next to the president-elect for photos in the lobby of Trump Tower after their meeting. Asked why he wasn't speaking, West said, "I just want to take a picture right now."

He spoke out on Twitter after the meeting.

West entered the building shortly after 9 a.m. with a large entourage. He was not accompanied by wife Kim Kardashian West.

The 39-year-old recently spent over a week in Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles for stress and exhaustion. Days before his hospitalization, he abruptly canceled his U.S. concert tour.

Last month during a concert in San Jose, California, West said he didn't vote for president, but if he had, he would have cast a ballot for Trump. He also praised the president-elect's "method of communication" as "very futuristic" and spoke about his plans to run for that office, saying that he will become "a different kind of president."

Trump also was shown in a video for West's single "Famous," released last year. It also featured Rihanna, former President George W. Bush, Anna Wintour and Bill Cosby.

'Growing Pains' star and TV host Alan Thicke dies at age 69

Alan Thicke, a versatile performer who gained his greatest renown as the beloved dad on a long-running sitcom, has died at age 69.

Carleen Donovan, who is a publicist for Thicke's son, singer Robin Thicke, said the actor died from a heart attack on Tuesday in Los Angeles. She had no further details.

Thicke was a Canadian-born TV host, writer, composer and actor well-known in his homeland before making his name in the United States, most notably with the ABC series "Growing Pains."

On that comedy, which aired from 1985 to 1992, Thicke played Dr. Jason Seaver, a psychiatrist and father-knows-best who moved his practice into his home so his wife could go back to work as a reporter. Along with his clients, he had three (later four) kids under foot, including his oldest son, Mike, played by breakout heart-throb Kirk Cameron, who served as a constant source of comedic trouble for the family.

Born in Ontario, Canada, in 1947, Thicke was nominated for three Emmy Awards for his work in the late 1970s as a writer for Barry Manilow's talk show, and later for a satirical take on the genre in the variety show "America 2-Night."

He composed several popular theme songs, including the original theme for "The Wheel of Fortune" and other shows including "The Facts of Life" and "Diff'rent Strokes."

Perhaps his boldest assault on the U.S. market was as a virtual unknown taking on the King of Late Night, Johnny Carson. "Thicke of the Night" was a syndicated talk-music-and-comedy show meant to go head-to-head against NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

It premiered in September 1983 with great fanfare, boasting an innovative format and regulars including Richard Belzer, Arsenio Hall, Gilbert Gottfried and Fred Willard. But all too quickly, it was evident that Carson wasn't going to be dethroned, and the ambitious "Thicke" disappeared into the night after one season.

In the 1990s and beyond, Thicke stayed busy as a celebrity TV host and with guest shots on dozens of series, including "How I Met Your Mother" and, this year, the Netflix series "Fuller House" and the NBC drama "This Is Us." ***(AP)***

Oscar winner shields Bergdahl interviews from US lawyers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The federal government dropped its efforts to seize hours of unaired interviews an Oscar-winning screenwriter recorded with Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Mark Boal had sued the government to block a military prosecutor who threatened to subpoena 25 hours of interviews for possible use at Bergdahl's court-martial for abandoning his post in Afghanistan in 2009.

Boal, who won two Academy Awards as producer and screenwriter for the Iraq war drama "The Hurt Locker," asserted his First Amendment right as a journalist to maintain confidentiality of sources and other information. Boal reported on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I'm happy that the Army ultimately agreed to uphold the traditions of a free civilian press," Boal said in a statement.

The recordings formed the basis for the second season of the popular podcast "Serial" that focused on Bergdahl's decision to desert and his five years in captivity with the Taliban and its allies.

But the majority of unedited recordings never aired, and Boal said they included confidential discussions and material never meant to be public.

In return for the government dropping its efforts to get the records, Boal will verify material that aired on the podcast if called to testify at Bergdahl's court-martial in North Carolina, attorney Jean-Paul Jassy said. Boal will also drop his demand for attorney fees.

A Justice Department spokeswoman confirmed the case was resolved, but she said they had no further comment.

A court filing Tuesday showed the case was dismissed, though Jassy said it actually was settled Dec. 6.

Boal's lawsuit was supported by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, other journalism groups, nonprofits and major media companies, including The Associated Press.

"We supported this lawsuit because it sent a very strong message about aggressively defending rights under the First Amendment," said Bruce Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "That message was heard and received. The resulting settlement protects newsgathering and confidential communications with sources. This is a great outcome."

At a hearing in Los Angeles federal court in September, Jassy asked a judge to issue an order blocking release of the recordings. He said it was unprecedented for a military prosecutor to subpoena a civilian reporter.

Nephew's table manners make him unfit for civilized company

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 50-something single man living with my elderly mother. My father passed away a while ago, and the only members of my family left are me, my mom and my older sister, who has a 27-year-old son, "Jeff." They do not live with us.

My sister has been divorced for 10 years. Jeff and his parents never had a scheduled dinnertime, and they never ate together. Jeff's meals consisted of whatever he wanted, eaten in his bedroom.

Once a week, my mother makes a nice dinner and invites my sister and nephew over. The problem is, Jeff was never taught proper table manners. He eats like a caveman, slurps his food and holds the utensils like a 2-year-old. It's embarrassing. When I mention this to my mother, she gets on my case about "criticizing" him. She sees the problem, but doesn't want to say anything for fear of offending him. His mother sees it, too, but does nothing.

Jeff has no girlfriend or significant other at the moment, but if he were to go to any "nice" restaurant, he'd end up looking idiotic. It has reached the point that I can no longer look at him while we are at the table because it ruins my appetite. How can someone tactfully teach this kid how to eat and conduct himself properly?

CAVEMAN'S UNCLE

DEAR UNCLE: This is a sad situation, considering how many social occasions revolve around food. If no one ever took the time during the last 27 years to explain basic table etiquette to Jeff, you can't blame your nephew for his atrocious manners.

You should speak to him about this—but privately—and ask if he would like you to give him some pointers. However, if he refuses, you might be happier eating elsewhere when your mother invites Jeff and his mom for dinner.

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my wife and I went dancing with my friend "Dick" and his wife. While I was in the middle of a conversation with Dick, my wife kept trying to interrupt. She even laid her hand on my arm to try to get my attention. I ignored her and told her later she had been rude to try to interrupt my conversation. She thinks I disrespected her and our marriage by putting conversation with my friend above her. This happens often when the four of us are together.

Am I being insensitive to my wife's feelings? We frequently disagree, but we have been married 44 years. Your input would be appreciated.

ALWAYS A LOVING HUSBAND

DEAR LOVING HUSBAND: It is generally considered rude to interrupt someone when he or she is talking. The next time your wife does it, stop and ask her what's so important. (Could it be that the band is playing your song?)

However, if you have been droning on with your buddy for a long time, she may simply be craving some attention. If that's the case, perhaps it would be better if you saw Dick on a one-to-one basis without the wives around. That way you won't be interrupted.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

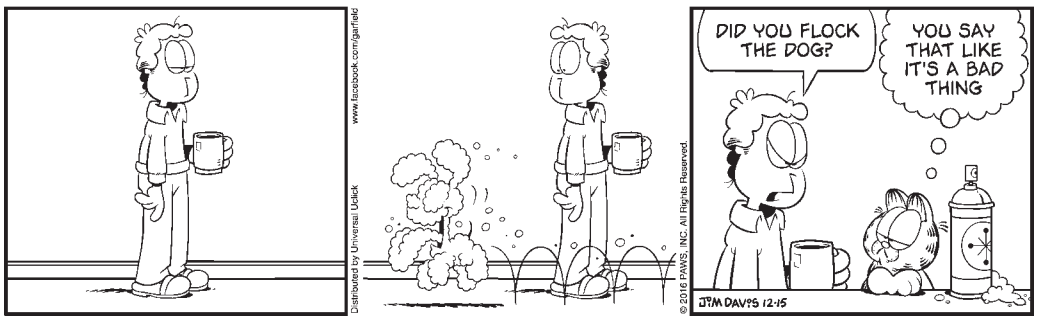
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LET'S ASK THE OUIJA BOARD ANOTHER QUESTION.
OK, I'VE GOT ONE.
OH GREAT OUIJA BOARD, WILL I GROW UP TO BE PRESIDENT?
IT'S MOVING!
"G...O..."
"D..F...O... R... B... I... D."
WHEN I WANT AN EDITORIAL, I'LL ASK FOR IT, YOU STUPID BOARD!
12-15
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


DID YOU FLOCK THE DOG?
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S A BAD THING
JIM DAVIS 12-15
www.facebook.com/garfield
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THE NEIGHBORS SERIOUSLY PAY YOU NOT TO CAROL?
YEAH.
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT A FEW YEARS BACK THAT SEALED THE DEAL.
SOME WINDOWS BROKE, SOME CATS WERE TRAUMATIZED.
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOUR VOICE WAS THAT BAD.
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD ME GO AFTER THAT HIGH NOTE IN "SILENT NIGHT."
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www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SO WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN... GO TO MONSTER TRUCK PULLS?
I GO TO MUSEUMS!
MONSTER TRUCK MUSEUMS?
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12/15

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Drone
4 Use a sponge
8 "Non-sense!"
12 "This — test"
13 Latin love
14 Sandwich cookie
15 Almond cookie
17 Norway's capital
18 Kipling lad
19 Rocket launch
21 Tennis score
24 Sushi fish
25 Scoot
26 Deli meat
28 Audition CDs
32 "There oughta be —!"
34 Spring month
36 Donated
37 Showy parrot
39 Favorite
41 Garfield, for one
42 Scale member
44 Sandbars
46 Root veggie
50 Mess up
51 Europe's neighbor
52 Apple laptops
56 Spiced tea
57 Sad
58 Actress Long
59 Snitch
60 "Clumsy me!"
61 Hostel

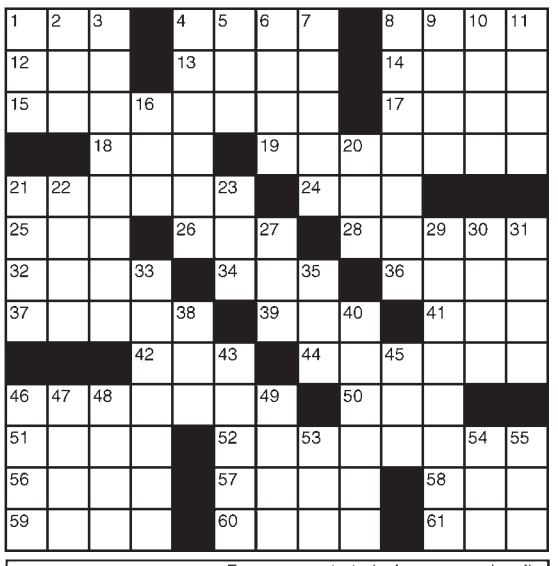
DOWN

1 That guy
2 Mex. neighbor
3 Michigan island
4 Cordiality
5 "As I see it," in a text
6 Combine
7 Bert's roomie
8 Pirated product
9 Guesser's words
10 Ego
11 Horse-shoe site
16 Vacuum's lack
20 Nour-ished
21 Streetcar
22 Luau dance
23 Candied veggie
27 Atlas page
29 Popular pasta
30 Ellipse
31 Hardens
33 Yuletide drink
35 "Of course"
38 Tri-umphed
40 Ancient Nile city
43 People bend over backward to do it
45 Acapulco gold
46 Treaty
47 Tennis great Arthur
48 Iranian money
49 — Alto, Calif.
53 Recipe measure
54 Family
55 — Salva-dor

Solution time: 26 mins.

L	I	Z	■	D	R	U	G	■	F	L	E	E
O	N	E	■	I	O	T	A	■	J	E	A	N
A	F	R	■	S	T	A	R	B	O	A	R	D
M	O	O	C	H	■	■	B	R	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	R	E	S	■	A	D	O	B	E
S	U	N	B	A	K	E	D	■	S	M	U	G
E	N	E	■	G	E	N	I	E	■	N	R	A
E	T	A	S	■	S	O	N	G	B	I	R	D
D	O	R	K	S	■	R	A	G	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	Y	I	P	■	■	E	B	B	E	D
S	N	O	W	B	L	I	N	D	■	A	X	E
A	I	D	A	■	O	L	E	O	■	G	I	L
O	B	E	Y	■	T	E	E	N	■	S	T	E

Yesterday's answer 12-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Brody, 37; Julie Taymor, 64; Don Johnson, 67; Tim Conway, 83.

Happy Birthday: Stick to simple and affordable changes this year. Don't let anyone talk you into something that makes you feel uncomfortable. Remain focused on accomplishing your own goals, not goals set by others. Personal changes will benefit you professionally as well as motivate you to entertain diverse ideas and plans for the future. Romantic gestures will improve your personal life. Your numbers are 2, 10, 18, 27, 33, 38, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll face opposition at home if you make alterations without approval. Whether it's building code or utilizing space that someone else may have other plans for, look for ways to compromise instead of bulldozing ahead without thought. Be united instead of divided. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A lifestyle change based on the information you have gathered will turn out well. Keep your projects simple, effective and within your means, and greater stability will be yours. Avoid making a physical change based on hype. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Discuss important legal, financial and medical issues with the experts, but don't let anyone make a decision for you. Once you have enough information, decipher what your options are and what your next move should be. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Listen and decipher what's being said. Consider how best to handle whatever arises without overreacting or making rash decisions that will leave you in a questionable position. Time is on your side, so, when in doubt, wait to see what transpires. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may question what others are doing, but don't let your emotions stop you from doing what's right. Listen to the voices of reason and make decisions based on facts and figures, not what your peers might think is popular. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stay in control. Don't make rash moves based on hearsay. Moderation will be necessary when asked for donations or handouts. Don't allow anyone to play on your emotions or take advantage of you. Be smart and offer suggestions, not cash. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look for alternative routes if you face a roadblock. Controversy will rise up if you disagree with someone who can influence your life at home or at work. Take action and show how reliable and responsible you can be. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Delve into something that interests you. The people you encounter will enrich your life and give you something to think about. Do your own research to find out how to improve your standard of living. Share your feelings and make suggestions. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can make innovative changes that will brighten your life. Look back at some of your past accomplishments and failures and you will find alternative ways to use your experience to better your position and make financial gains. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Situations will be difficult to control. Try not to let your emotions or your ego get in the way of making a good decision. Overreacting will not help you win support. When in doubt, it's best to pause and take a deep breath. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't make unnecessary alterations to the way you handle your money. Keeping a close tab on your bank account will help you avoid being overdrawn or unprepared. Play it safe and avoid undue stress. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stay focused and intent on the goals you set. Letting someone change your direction or interfere in your progress will lead to loss or failure. Be true to yourself and stick to your game plan. Success is within your reach. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are balanced, progressive and determined. You are proactive and forthright.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4			8			
		3		5	6			
6	8		3					
		9			3		7	1
	5						4	
4	1		9			2		
					7		9	3
				4	2		8	
				8			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	8	1	2	3	7	4	6
7	6	2	4	5	8	9	3	1
3	4	1	6	9	7	2	8	5
5	8	3	9	7	6	1	2	4
2	1	9	5	8	4	6	7	3
6	7	4	3	1	2	5	9	8
4	3	7	2	6	5	8	1	9
8	9	5	7	4	1	3	6	2
1	2	6	8	3	9	4	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ARGYLE PATTERNS Solution: 7 letters

D	T	C	F	L	A	S	H	Y	R	E	S	R	U	N
N	E	A	L	Y	E	S	R	E	J	K	U	S	S	O
O	K	R	R	A	T	W	K	U	E	I	N	F	T	B
M	N	D	E	C	N	R	E	C	G	L	I	A	R	B
A	A	I	S	D	H	C	O	N	O	T	F	S	I	I
I	L	G	E	E	I	A	A	U	O	S	O	E	P	R
D	B	A	T	T	G	O	I	M	S	T	R	P	E	A
A	L	N	S	N	S	N	R	C	P	E	M	A	S	E
I	U	E	D	E	E	T	E	B	U	B	R	H	T	W
S	E	R	I	M	P	H	N	Z	M	P	E	S	A	Ⓣ
R	G	U	A	A	A	A	O	A	O	E	S	L	Ⓐ	I
A	R	T	L	N	T	A	M	S	P	L	L	Ⓗ	L	N
T	E	X	P	R	I	N	T	I	E	S	P	I	N	K
N	E	E	A	O	V	E	R	L	A	P	P	I	N	G
I	N	T	E	R	C	R	O	S	S	I	N	G	E	R

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Archaic, Blanket, Blue, Campbell, Cardigan, Clan, Cups, Diamond, Embroidered, Flashy, Green, Hat, Hose, Intarsia, Intercrossing, Jersey, Kilts, Knitwear, Lozenges, Motifs, Nursery, Ornament, Overlapping, Pants, Pink, Plaids, Print, Ribbon, Rug, Sets, Shapes, Socks, Stripes, Tams, Tape, Tartan, Texture, Tie, Tone, Trousers, Uniform, Walls

Yesterday's Answer: Additive

Treasuries 13 through 26 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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- Must comply with the law and regulations of the state dietary or nutritional licensing body.

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Amanda Lynn Castro Cabrera
Telephone No. 671-727-5336

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:
A.T.A.C. Minor Child
by
Amanda Lynn Castro Cabrera Petitioner(s)

FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0596

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 21st, day of December 2016 at 10:30 am, in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2016.

/s/ by: Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cepeda, Ma Lihua Petitioner,
vs.
Cepeda, Vicente Joaquin Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0217

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501365, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2016

/s/ Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: On cloud nine

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

IX
NIMBUS

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Find today's solution in classified section

Timberwolves beat Bulls in Thibodeau's Chicago return

CHICAGO (AP)— Zach LaVine scored 24 points, Andrew Wiggins added 23 and the Timberwolves rallied to beat the Bulls 99-94 in Minnesota coach Tom Thibodeau's return to Chicago on Tuesday night.

The Timberwolves wiped out a 21-point deficit and got Thibodeau a victory in his first game in Chicago since the Bulls fired him in an acrimonious split in 2015.

Gorgui Dieng and Karl-Anthony Towns each scored 16 points, and the Timberwolves snapped a four-game losing streak.

Jimmy Butler led Chicago with 27 points, and Robin Lopez added 14. But the Bulls continued a pattern of letdowns against losing teams, this time falling to one that came in tied for the NBA's worst record.

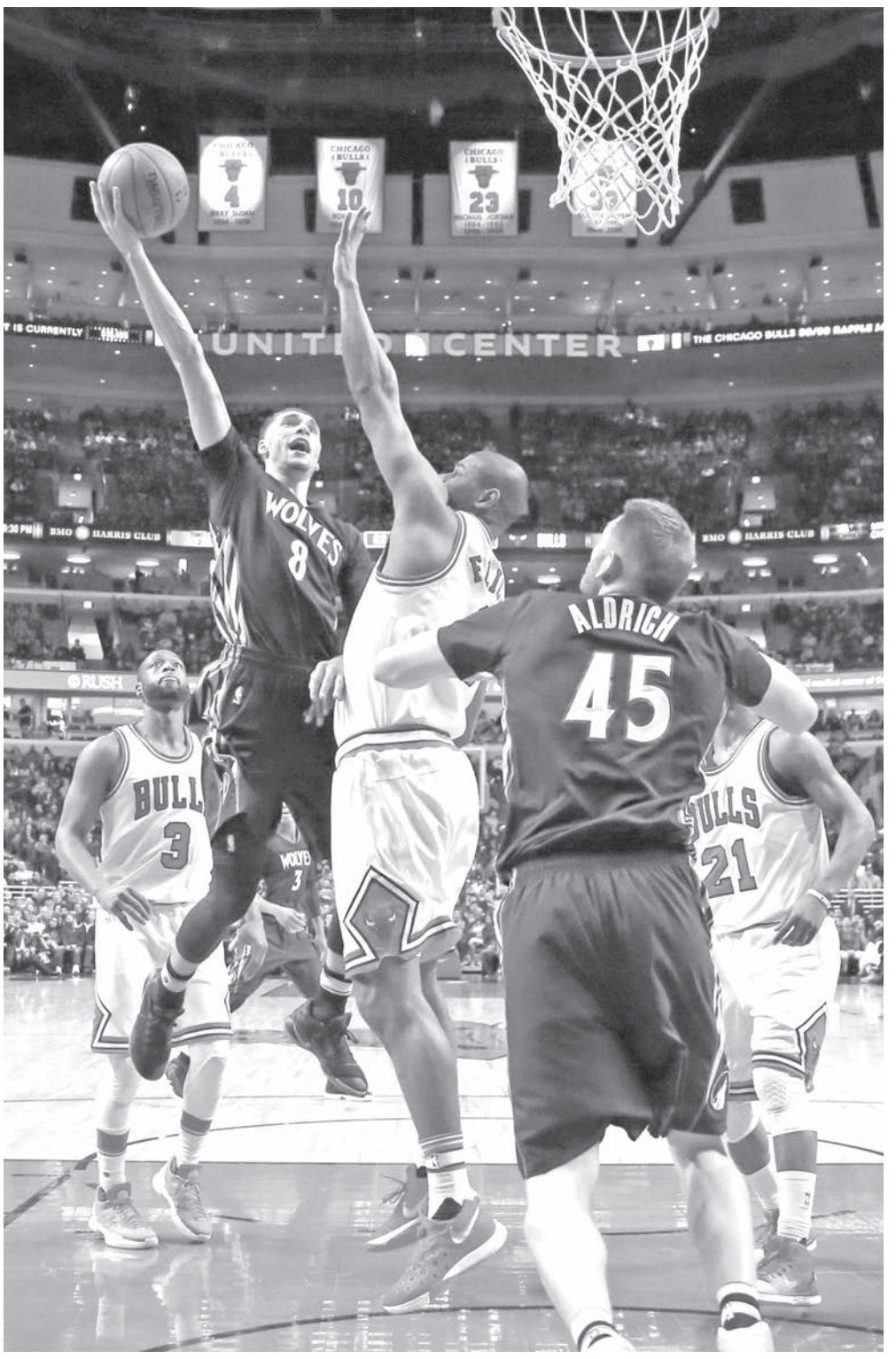
That wasn't what the Timberwolves expected when they hired Thibodeau. After all, the Bulls went 255-139 and made the playoffs in all five of his seasons, including a run to the Eastern Conference finals with 2011 MVP Derrick Rose leading the way.

The Timberwolves looked like they were going to get blown out in this one, trailing by 21 in the second quarter. Instead, they came roaring back.

Minnesota was leading 91-87 when Butler threw down an alley-oop dunk off a feed from Dwyane Wade in transition and nailed a fadeaway jumper off a steal to tie it with 1:34 remaining.

Wiggins then hit a pullup jumper and LaVine scored on a reverse layup to make it 95-91 with 52 seconds left.

Wade picked up two technicals and an ejection with 14.1 seconds left after his driving layup was blocked by LaVine. Butler also got called for a foul on the play.



AP

Minnesota Timberwolves' Zach LaVine (8) scores over Chicago Bulls' Cristiano Felicio, as Dwyane Wade (3), Jimmy Butler, and Cole Aldrich (45) watch during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, in Chicago.

It all led to Ricky Rubio hitting two technical free throws and LaVine making two foul shots to make it 99-91, sealing the win for Minnesota.

Cavaliers 103, Grizzlies 86

In Cleveland, Kevin Love scored 29 points, J.R. Smith found his aim — for one half — and LeBron James added 23 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their fifth straight, 103-86 on Tuesday night over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Memphis rested center Marc Gasol for the first of back-to-back games against the defending NBA champions.

Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said after the game that James, Love and Irving will not travel for the game Wednesday.

Smith, who has been in a season-long shooting slump, scored 17 of his 23 points in the first half as the Cavs, who gave star point guard Kyrie Irving the night off, built a 22-point lead and ended the Grizzlies' six-game winning streak.

Zach Randolph replaced Gasol in the starting lineup and scored 18 points to lead the Grizzlies. The reigning Western Conference player of the week, Gasol is expected to play Wednesday in Memphis to complete a brutal three-game stretch for the Grizzlies, who beat Golden State by 21 on Saturday.

Warriors 113, Pelicans 109

In New Orleans, Stephen Curry scored 30 points, Kevin Durant added 27 to go with a big block on Anthony Davis in the final minute and Golden State held off New Orleans.

Draymond Green recorded a triple-double with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, and it was the last of his four steals — on Davis in the waning seconds — that sealed the victory. Davis angrily contended he'd been fouled, only to be assessed a technical foul.

Klay Thompson added 17 points for the Warriors, who combined for 14 3-pointers, five by Curry.

Davis finished with 28 points, five blocked shots and two steals but turned the ball over six times.

Suns 113, Knicks 111, OT

In Phoenix, Eric Bledsoe scored the go-ahead points on a driving, left-handed layup with 30 seconds to play and Phoenix gave New York its second loss in eight games.

Bledsoe scored eight consecutive points late in OT and finished with 31, his third consecutive 30-point game.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 34 points for New York, one shy of his career high, before fouling out with 1:34 left in OT.

Carmelo Anthony capped a 3-for-15 shooting night with an air ball that resulted in a 24-second clock violation with 5.9 seconds left.

Trail Blazers 114, Thunder 95

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard had 17 points and nine assists before sitting out the fourth quarter and Portland snapped a four-game losing streak.

Russell Westbrook was off his league-leading average of 31.1 points a game with 20 for the Thunder, who have lost two of their last three after a six-game winning streak.

Mason Plumlee added 18 points for the Blazers, who led by 26 points in Portland's first game back after a 1-4 road trip. Six Portland players finished in double figures in the second of a back-to-back.

Magic 131, Hawks 120

In Atlanta, Serge Ibaka scored 29 points, Elfrid Payton reached career highs with 26 points and 14 assists and Orlando snapped a three-game losing streak.

Orlando began the night ranked 29th in scoring and played without center Nikola Vucevic, but it got big production from the bench. Payton, Jodie Meeks and Jeff Green combined for 62 points, while starting guard Evan Fournier scored 23.

Dwight Howard had 20 points and 16 rebounds and Dennis Schroder had 19 points and 13 assists for the Hawks, who thought they were on a good trajectory after rallying from 20 points down in last Friday's win at Milwaukee.

Cavs announce plans for $140 million renovation of arena

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James' home court is getting a major makeover. The Cavaliers announced plans Tuesday for a $140 million project to renovate Quicken Loans Arena, the downtown home of the NBA champions since 1994.

The Cavs and Cuyahoga County officials believe the arena needs an exterior facelift and massive interior upgrades to better accommodate fans and attract future events. The Q currently hosts 200-plus events annually. The Republican National Convention was held there in July.

Under the proposal, the Cavs, who are extending their lease to 2034, will pay $70 million with the balance being picked up by the county to expand the arena. The Q will remain open during construction, which is slated to begin in 2017 and take approximately two years to complete.

AP

In this Nov. 11, 2016, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23)) gestures next to Washington Wizards guard Sheldon McClellan (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Washington. The Cavaliers won 105-94.

As part of the reconstruction, the building will be modernized with a glass front, and public gathering spaces will be added along with food and beverage areas.

Once the project is completed, the Cavs are hoping to host the NBA All-Star Game. Cleveland last hosted the event in 1997.

"The NBA is very supportive of the Quicken Loans Arena transformation project which we believe will greatly benefit the entire Cleveland community," league deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum said. "We understand the impact this project will have in continuing the great momentum we have all seen recently in the city.

"We look forward to holding our week of NBA All-Star events in Cleveland in the near future following the successful completion of The Q transformation project."

LeBron James sports safety pin on *Sports Illustrated* cover

If you take a close look at LeBron James' recent cover photo for *Sports Illustrated*'s Sportsperson of the Year award, a safety pin can be spotted on the NBA superstar's lapel.

No, James isn't suffering some sort of wardrobe malfunction. Since last month's presidential election, the safety pin has become a symbol of solidarity with those Americans who fear they'll be disenfranchised by a Donald Trump presidency. The pin is intended to show that the wearer is a safe person to turn to.

James campaigned for Democrat Hillary Clinton in the days before the vote. During a recent road trip, James opted to stay elsewhere than the team's official Trump-branded hotel in New York. He called the decision a personal preference. ***(AP)***

Current, past baseball players criticize hazing restrictions

NEW YORK (AP)—Huston Street believes in some of baseball's oldest, tried-and-true traditions, and the reliever knows team building can be a real benefit, so he considers the elimination of rookie dress up in the new labor deal the loss of "a healthy ritual."

The Los Angeles Angels closer, like many players expressing their views Tuesday, disagrees with Major League Baseball's ban on the hazing ritual of dressing up rookies in costumes that could be considered offensive, including women's outfits.

"An effort to show our childlike spirit, or humble ourselves in wearing something funny as a team building moment, is now gone," Street wrote in an email to The Associated Press, "but rest assured some other ritual will rise, will be kept far more secret and hopefully it's as safe and harmless as uncomfortable clothes."

Baseball owners and players ratified their five-year labor contract Tuesday, which contains a new Anti-Hazing and Anti-Bullying Policy formulated by management, rules the union agreed not to contest.

New York Mets rookie outfielder Brandon Nimmo was among the last group to participate this past season. In September, he had to wear a wig and dress in the style of the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own" while fetching coffee and doughnuts in Philadelphia.

"I guess I'm sad to see that go. I'm glad that I got to partake in it last year. Wouldn't trade that," Nimmo said at the team's Citi Field holiday party. "I felt like it just kind of brought the team closer together, let's have a little fun together."

Many retired players were outraged, taking to social media to show their disgust.

"What a joke!!" tweeted Mark Mulder, a big league pitcher from 2000-08.

Yet for baseball officials, the decision goes far beyond just good-natured fun.

Billy Bean, a big league infielder and outfielder from 1987-95 who came out as gay in 1999, spoke with MLB's labor lawyers as the policy was developed as part of his role as vice president for social responsibility and inclusion.

"To me it's important to be cognizant of the images that our players project to our fans, and I think where for many where it would seem that it's common sense that it's just all in good fun and being silly, there are many sides to the story and I just think that it's a responsible thing to do," he said during a telephone interview. "Many players didn't like this tradition but were afraid to speak up."

Still, players were stunned.

"Remember, you're doing this not because you look different or because you're from some far corner of the globe. In fact you're doing this for reasons that couldn't be more opposite," former pitcher Dallas Braden wrote to The AP. "You're one of us. You're here now, you've made it, you've earned it. You're a BIG LEAGUER and in the big leagues we dress up and sing just like the Cy Youngs & MVPs who came before us."

AP

In this Sept. 24, 2007, file photo, New York Yankees' Ian Kennedy is dressed as Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" as he leaves the stadium after a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Many took to social media to express disappointment.

"Seriously?! Had to wear a Hooters outfit going through customs in Toronto and wore it proudly (because) I was in the Show," former Boston star Kevin Youkilis wrote before deleting the tweet, adding "Way more important topics and problems in the world that need attention."

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Ross Stripling tweeted a photo of himself and teammates sporting cheerleading uniforms, saying, "honored to be one of the last players ever to be dressed up as a woman."

Cody Ponce, taken by Milwaukee with the 55th overall draft pick in 2015, tweeted: "I looked forward to the whole dressing up as a rookie in the MLB! I never saw it as hazing, just some fun!"

MLB executives were concerned about photos of rookie dress-ups that appear on social media and might offend some fans and business partners.

"The world has gotten 2 damn sensitive! This has been a time honored tradition," tweeted Aubrey Huff, a major leaguer from 2000-12 who liked to show off his lucky red rally thong. "The world is full of sensitive snowflakes."

Vernon Wells, a three-time All-Star during a career that spanned 1999-2013, wondered what was next.

"BREAKING NEWS: Fans are no longer allowed to heckle players because it hurts their feelings," he tweeted.

Many outside the sport thought it was about time baseball comported with the norms of other industries.

"By banning the hazing of rookies by having them dress in feminine presenting clothing, MLB draws closer to minimizing and hopefully ending discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and expression," wrote Hudson Taylor, founder and executive director of AthleteAlly, an advocacy group that describes itself as a straight ally that stands in solidarity with the LGBT community.

Colorado general manager Jeff Bridich views costumes as distinct from hazing that involves violence.

"If we're getting so P.C. either as an industry or as a society that we can't make fun of ourselves at times, that would be, I think, harmful to the game in a certain way," he said.

Mets general manager Sandy Alderson, a veteran of Dartmouth, Harvard Law School and the Marines, said he had not heard any complaints but still had some concerns.

"I've seen it in the military and, for all the camaraderie it's supposed to promote, it's divisive and I think undercuts morale and so you've got to be very careful about that," he said. "Is it constructive? Is it useful? Is it juvenile? It's probably juvenile. It's probably not useful or constructive in too many ways."

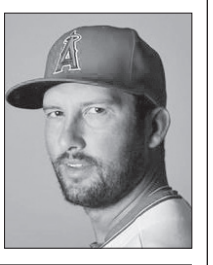
Superheroes such as Batman and Spider-Man are still allowed, but Wonder Woman, Hooters Girls, Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, the U.S. Olympic women's gymnastics team, ballet tutus and Lady Gaga are now banned.

Mets pitcher Noah Syndergaard described teammate Curtis Granderson as the ringleader when the rookie right-hander dressed as the title character from "He-Man and the Masters of the Universe" at Cincinnati in 2015.

"It's not really embarrassing for us," Syndergaard said. "It was a fun time. It's part of it. Just got to embrace it."

Rookie dress up a healthy ritual

By HUSTON STREET
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



By HUSTON STREET
For The Associated Press

First off it is literally impossible to answer this question without someone getting offended, but I am going to try and take an objective approach.

I am not arguing for bullying because that's not what this is. I'm not arguing for purposely offensive behavior because that's not even close to what this is. I am arguing for a certain sense of logic, historical truth and tolerance.

I am arguing a principle of team building in a safe manner, not defending random individual acts that could be used to paint the entire process as bad, which is how most arguments are framed these days.

I believe in the rite of passage, I believe it's team building and I believe that it can be done in a way that is sensitive but allows that team building process to unfold.

A few examples wherein we accept behavior for what it is, because it is understood the intention to be "comedy."

Should we ban all comedians? There is an entire profession built around the notion of being offensive. Some of our favorite and most famous figures are comedians, and we are all delighted for a five-minute skit.

Children play dress-up all the time. They inevitably decide how they can look the funniest, because this is understood even in their child-like minds, and they roll around for hours laughing at each other as they change costumes so to speak. Do we cry foul when our children play dress up?

Halloween is a fairly understood dress-up day. Some people take it too far, but largely it is celebrated as a fun way to have an adventure with friends, family and see creativity in action. Should we similarly ban Halloween?

There are a number of venues or situations where the act of dress up is understood, and offense is not intended to be serious but an act of humor.

So while many will argue the fear of political correctness, I would say that the degree of embarrassment to the individual or public falls many levels below an actual comedy show and Halloween, but worse it deprives the individual athlete of a ceremony wherein they are the center of the team for a day, and everyone largely is celebrating their accomplishment as full-fledged major leaguers. It's actually a ceremony of acceptance, and someone stupidly branded it as "hazing," and that's how we have arrived here.

Yes, I remember my dress-up day. I remember it fondly. I was dressed as a female of some sort. We weren't making fun of people that actually dress that way, we were dressed up in uncomfortable clothes, as a contrast of macho dudes dressed in too tight fitting or too revealing clothes for our body type. Anyone looking at the exercise from a lens of humor would see the contrast for what it is and wouldn't be offended.

I find it far more unfortunate that we twist truths to fit a narrative. Bullying exists, and bullying is quite terrible, inexcusable. In fact, the act of singling someone out for a difference or a weakness is disgusting to me. But to parallel these is a farce, and I see people mangle and mash up ideology as if this is MLB players' thought process.

Much of the time the outfit is an inside joke that might be a play on one word or instance that occurred during the season, and everyone on the team understands the symbolic nature of the outfit. But to those on the outside, they interpret it completely different.

To insist that these outfits are disrespectful to anyone is maybe a stronger case than bullying but like comedy is either so clearly understood or the outfit itself doesn't even symbolize or attempt to symbolize how it's being reported/twisted to fit some narrative.

Most importantly to consider, people have been dressing each other up in a humorous fashion for thousands of years, especially men dressing up other men. A few minutes on Google and there are hundreds of pertinent examples all over the world that continue to this day.

Rookie Dress Up is like anything in this life. Done appropriately it is a healthy ritual. Taken too far and it becomes either offensive or dangerous. And now it's out of the players' hands. A part of the game that was openly and happily shared with fans in an effort to show our child-like spirit or humble ourselves in wearing something funny as a team-building moment is now gone but truthfully won't change much, and I don't really care that much.

But rest assured some other ritual will rise, will be kept far more secret and hopefully it's as safe and harmless as uncomfortable clothes.

Huston Street, a pitcher for the Los Angeles Angels, has been in the major leagues since 2005 and has long been a star closer. His late father, James Street, was a quarterback who won the 1969 national football championship at the University of Texas. Asked his thoughts about Major League Baseball's new Anti-Hazing and Anti-Bullying Policy, Street e-mailed a lengthy response on Tuesday to The Associated Press, which is below and has been lightly edited for style.

City, county approve negotiations on $1.3B Raiders stadium

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—City and county officials approved opening negotiations with an investment group on a possible $1.3 billion stadium project that supporters hope will sway the Oakland Raiders to stay.

The approvals Tuesday give an investment team anchored by Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott and former quarterback Rodney Peete the right to negotiate a formal agreement for a $1.3 billion stadium that includes $350 million in public money.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted earlier Tuesday, with the Oakland City Council voting later in the night.

Seven city council members voted to enter negotiations with Lott. One council member abstained. Earlier in the day, three of five county supervisors voted yes after more than three hours of discussion and testimony in a room sparkling with sports celebrities.

Lott said after the county vote that the work is just beginning.

"We still have a long ways to go. We still have to convince the NFL. We still have to convince (Raiders owner) Mark Davis. We've got a long ways to go but today is a great day and a great moment for Raider Nation," he said.

Earlier this year, Mark Davis said he was committed to moving the Raiders to Las Vegas, where a $1.9 billion stadium project has been approved. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf vowed to continue working on a counter-proposal for the Raiders to stay at the Oakland Coliseum.

AP
In this Dec. 24, 2015, O.co Coliseum is reflected in a puddle before an NFL football game between the Oakland Raiders and the San Diego Chargers in Oakland, Calif.

A move to Nevada is not certain, although a vote by the NFL on whether to allow the move is possible as soon as January. Nevada will raise $750 million from a hotel tax to fund the stadium with billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson contributing $650 million and the Raiders and NFL kicking in $500 million.

The Raiders must get approval from 24 of the 32 NFL owners to move. NFL owners will receive an update on the stadium situation when they meet in the Dallas area Wednesday.

The Raiders also have the option of moving to the Los Angeles area, where they can share a facility with the recently relocated Rams.

A spokesman for the Raiders did not return requests for comment.

Former Los Angeles Raiders great Marcus Allen made an emotional pitch to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and later to the Oakland City Council, saying that losing the team would be devastating for Oakland.

"It would be an emptiness that I don't think the city could recover from," he said.

Other speakers urged caution even as they pledged support. They said officials should negotiate jobs and affordable housing for residents in east Oakland where the Coliseum is located, given the soaring cost of housing throughout the city.

A sticking point was that Alameda County and Oakland still need to retire nearly $100 million in debt incurred for remodeling the current stadium to woo the team back from Los Angeles in 1995.

The parties have identified $1.25 billion in potential financing for a project that may cost upward of $1.3 billion for a 55,000-seat stadium that could include mixed-use retail in the future.

Lott's team, which includes the Fortress Investment Group, would contribute $400 million, with the NFL and the Raiders contributing $500 million.

The city of Oakland would contribute $200 million for infrastructure such as storm drains and roadway parking. The money would be generated from bonds paid back from revenue created from the stadium and its surrounding commercial development.

The city and county would also contribute at least 100 acres of land, valued at $150 million. One of the issues to be determined is whether the land would be sold or leased.

Supervisor Keith Carson grilled a representative of Fortress for details on payment and revenue. He voted no.

Supervisor Wilma Chan abstained. She said at the hearing that while fans have remained loyal, she's not sure that the Raiders want to stay.

Board President Scott Haggerty joined supervisors Richard Valle and Nate Miley in moving forward, despite the many unknowns.

"What it comes down for me is trust and my mother would trust Ronnie Lott," he said. "I trust this man and he's somebody I want to do business with, and I hope he's somebody Mark Davis wants to do business with."

MCS

From Page 28

In the boys division, MCS is hoping to get the title that eluded the team last year when they fell to SIS 1, 22-25, 13-25. The Knights earned a return trip to the finals after slipping past GCA in their semis showdown at the MCS court.

The MCS-GCA semis collision went the distance in the first set with the Knights pulling off a 27-25 victory, thanks to Seok Jun Yun's back-to-back spikes. In the second set, MCS managed to gain cushion midway in the game, 15-12, before rain halted the team's momentum. When the game resumed, the Knights were held to 2 points, allowing GCA to take a 25-17 victory and send the match into the deciding third set. In the final set, the Knights regrouped and posted a 15-11 win to eliminate the Eagles.

Mt. Carmel's finals foe is Marianas Baptist Academy, which foiled a Knights-Geckos rematch after dethroning SIS in the other semis pairing in the boys division yesterday, 25-22, 25-18. The MCS-MBA title game will start at 4:30pm.

VISITING

From Page 28

a unanimous victory against Trench Tech's Nick Cruz in their 145-lb bout. All three judges scored the fight, 30-27, with Crisostomo scoring most of his points on his kicks to Cruz's body and legs. Cruz tried to bring Crisostomo down to the canvas, but the former almost always eluded his foe. The Trench Tech standout also unloaded several punches, but Crisostomo's constant movement allowed him to dodge most of Cruz's strikes.

Crisostomo's fellow Spike 22 fighter Joseph "Seay Seay" Camacho was on target right from the get-go, peppering BadAss Beach Boys K.J. "Man Down" Villagomez with solid punches to record a TKO win at the 2:07 mark of Round 1. Villagomez received too much punishment from Camacho that he was left unconscious for a moment, prompting the ring physician to check on him. Fortunately, Villagomez survived to congratulate Camacho for his victory.

Camacho, Quichocho, Crisostomo and Rosser's victories were later duplicated by Ground-Fu Guam's Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama and Spike 22's Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig, giving Guam a perfect record in last weekend's event.

Meanwhile, other winners in Trench Warz 20 were Franklin Santos via referee stoppage (flurry of strikes) at 2:16 of Round 1 against Jadrien Camacho; Bradlee Manalo via tapout (RNC) at 1:24 of Round 3 versus Atrion Norita; and Kiera Agda via referee stoppage (flurry of punches) at 2:19 of Round 1 over Ray "Major" Duenas.

CNMI

From Page 28

logged 33.88, chopping off more than two seconds from his entry time (36.31 seconds). Russia's Cameron Van Der Burgh (25.64 seconds) won the gold medal in the event, while Slovenia's Peter Stevens (25.85) and Brazil's Felipe Lima (25.98) got the silver and bronze, respectively.

In the 100m individual medley, Welch finished ninth after recording 1:06.25, while Villacrusis placed 10th (1:07.08) as both swimmers joined the Heat 3 qualifying race. Welch's time was more than six seconds faster than his entry mark (1.12.76), while Villacrusis eclipsed his seed record (1.10.30) by more than three seconds. Canada's Luke Patrick Reilly (56.53) topped Heat 3, while the U.S.' Michael Andrew (51.84 seconds) and Japan's Daiya Seto (52.01) and Shinri Shioura (52.17) gained the gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively.

Meanwhile, De Jesus raced in the 200m medley and was on Heat 1 of the women's competition. She clocked in at 2:50.87 to rank third behind Vietnam Anh Vien Nguyen (2:10.69) and Singapore's Samantha Ye (2:15.48) and beat Malvides' Aishath Sausan (2:57.23). De Jesus' time was more than two seconds better than her seed mark (2.53.04). Hungary's Katinka Hosszu (2:02.90) bagged the gold medal in the event, while the U.S.' Ella Eastin (2:05.02) and Madisyn Cox (2:05.93) joined her in the podium.

In her two other events in the closing stage of the tournament, De Jesus finished seventh in the 50m freestyle (29.89 seconds) and ninth in the 100m IM (1:16.88). The Netherlands' Ranomi Kromowiddjojo (23.60 seconds), Italy's Silvia di Pietro (23.90 seconds), and U.S.' Madison Kennedy (23.03) took the Top 3 places in the 50m freestyle, while Hungary's Katinka Hosszu (57.24), Australia's Emily Seebohm (57.97) and Jamaica's Alia Atkinson (58.04) prevailed in the 100m IM.

The U.S. topped the medal tally in the six-day tournament after hauling 30 medals—eight gold, 15 silver, and seven bronze. Hungary (7-2-2) and Russia (6-5-3) rounded out the Top 3.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	17	7	.708	—
New York	14	11	.560	3½
Boston	13	11	.542	4
Brooklyn	6	17	.261	10½
Philadelphia	6	18	.250	11

Southeast Division

Charlotte	14	11	.560	—
Atlanta	12	13	.480	2
Orlando	11	15	.423	3½
Washington	9	14	.391	4
Miami	8	17	.320	6

Central Division

Cleveland	18	5	.783	—
Chicago	13	11	.542	5½
Indiana	13	12	.520	6
Detroit	13	13	.500	6½
Milwaukee	11	12	.478	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	19	5	.792	—
Houston	18	7	.720	1½
Memphis	17	9	.654	3
New Orleans	8	18	.308	12
Dallas	6	18	.250	13

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	15	10	.600	—
Utah	15	10	.600	—
Portland	13	14	.481	3
Denver	9	16	.360	6
Minnesota	7	18	.280	8

Pacific Division

Golden State	22	4	.846	—
L.A. Clippers	18	7	.720	3½
Sacramento	9	15	.375	12
L.A. Lakers	10	17	.370	12½
Phoenix	8	17	.320	13½

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG	
Davis, NOR	22	243	191	690	31.4
Westbrook, OKC	23	235	199	710	30.9
Cousins, SAC	23	222	166	649	28.2
DeRozan, TOR	23	228	173	640	27.8
Lillard, POR	25	222	184	695	27.8
Harden, HOU	24	194	210	667	27.8
Durant, GOL	24	219	139	624	26.0
Thomas, BOS	21	168	164	546	26.0
Butler, CHI	23	179	204	589	25.6
Curry, GOL	24	199	123	613	25.5
James, CLE	21	194	103	526	25.0
Leonard, SAN	24	198	149	592	24.7
Irving, CLE	22	197	77	526	23.9
Wall, WAS	20	170	105	472	23.6
Walker, CHA	24	200	95	559	23.3
Hayward, UTA	18	135	117	419	23.3
Anthony, NYK	23	190	97	525	22.8
McCollum, POR	25	209	76	565	22.6
Wiggins, MIN	23	178	119	508	22.1
Antetokounmpo, MIL	22	176	117	482	21.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gobert, UTA	100	149	.671
Jordan, LAC	107	165	.648
Capela, HOU	131	211	.621
Howard, ATL	123	202	.609
Adams, OKC	102	179	.570
Kanter, OKC	117	208	.562
Gortat, WAS	104	187	.556
Durant, GOL	219	399	.549
Booker, Bro	96	175	.549
Gibson, CHI	123	225	.547

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Whiteside, MIA	24	104	239	343	14.3
Drummond, DET	24	88	238	326	13.6
Jordan, LAC	24	82	222	304	12.7
Howard, ATL	23	100	185	285	12.4
Gortat, WAS	22	73	189	262	11.9
Gobert, UTA	25	82	209	291	11.6
Davis, NOR	22	41	209	250	11.4
Vucevic, ORL	24	60	203	263	11.0
Westbrook, OKC	23	50	199	249	10.8
Cousins, SAC	23	57	189	246	10.7

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Harden, HOU	24	279	11.6
Westbrook, OKC	23	259	11.3
Wall, WAS	20	192	9.6
Paul, LAC	24	226	9.4
James, CLE	21	191	9.1
Frazier, NOR	24	178	7.4
Lowry, TOR	23	169	7.3
Green, GOL	23	163	7.1
Rondo, CHI	20	139	7.0
Teague, IND	24	162	6.8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Meet 3

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Aasish Dangol competes in the 100m breaststroke event during the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Meet 3 held last Dec. 3 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

A swimmer plunges into the pool for the 100m backstroke event, while timers set their clocks.

Swimmers adjust their goggle and cap while waiting for their races to start.

A swimmer races in the 50m butterfly event.

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation official Bobby Winkfield checks on the swimmers before starting a race.

Swimmers wait for the whistle.

A swimmer competes in the 50m backstroke event.

A swimmer nears completion of the 50m butterfly race.

Timberwolves beat Bulls in Thibodeau's Chicago return

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Current, past baseball players criticize hazing restrictions

PAGE 25

MCS returns to HS v-ball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School marched into the finals of both the girls and boys high school divisions of the 2016-2017 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League after surviving a pair of extended semis games yesterday at the MCS court in Chalan Kanoa.

MCS 1 first moved into the championship game in the girls division after outlasting MCS 2 in three sets. MCS 1 dropped the opening set, 17-25, but avoided the upset axe of its sister team after taking the last two sets, 25-15, 15-7.

With the close victory, the Lady Knights forced a finals rematch against Saipan International School. The Lady Geckos prevailed against Grace Christian Academy in the other semis game yesterday at the SIS court in As Lito. The Lady Eagles drew first blood, 25-22, before eventually losing the game when the Lady Geckos swept the last two sets, 25-13, 15-3.

The Lady Knights will go for the title defense today in the 3:30pm winner-take-all finale at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Mt. Carmel downed SIS in last season's championship game at the Whispering Palms School court, 25-15, 26-24.

See MCS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Seok Jun Yun goes up for a booming spike during the second set of their semis game against Grace Christian Academy in the high school division of the COPSSA volleyball league yesterday at the MCS court in Chalan Kanoa.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Seok Jun Yun goes up for a booming spike during the second set of their semis game against Grace Christian Academy in the high school division of the COPS-SA volleyball league yesterday at the MCS court in Chalan Kanoa.

CNMI swimmers break seven more seed times

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Angel De Jesus, seen here competing in the 100m backstroke of a local race this year, was one of the three swimmers who represented the CNMI in last week's 13th FINA World Swimming Championships at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre in Ontario, Canada.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Swim Team broke its seed times in seven of its last nine events in the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships that concluded last Sunday at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre in Ontario, Canada.

Christian Villacrusis and Salofi Welch each went 3-for-3 in the final two days of the competition, while Angel De Jesus crushed one entry time out of her last three races.

In the 100m freestyle, Welch clocked in at 57.65 seconds to better his seed time of 59.25. He raced on Heat 2 and finished in the Top 3 behind Tanzania's Adil Bharmal (56.60) and Tajikistan's Olim Kurbanov (57.65). The Commonwealth swimmer defeated five other swimmers in the 100m freestyle event, which saw Lithuania's Simonas Bilis (46.58), Japan's Shinri Shioura (46.59), and Australia's Tommaso D'Orsogna (46.70) making it to the podium.

Villacrus did the same race and placed No. 7 out of 10 swimmers on Heat 3 after posting 57.38 seconds, which is more than a second faster than his seed time of 58.42.

In the 50m breaststroke, both Welch and Villacrusis competed on Heat 2 with the former having another Top 3 finish and the latter landing at No. 5 in the eight-swimmer field. Welch registered 32.70 seconds to surpass his entry time of 37.85 seconds and claimed the third spot in his group behind Cook Island's Temaruata Strickland (32.32) and Nepal's Shuvam Shrestha (32.45). Villacrusis

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Visiting fighters triumph in Trench Warz 20

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four more fighters from Guam went home victorious after outclassing their respective opponents in Trench Warz 20: Full Throttle held last Friday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Justin "Ichi Banger" Quichocho of GuamMuayThai started the visitors' perfect run in the Trench Tech-organized tournament after scoring a Round 1 victory (via tapout) against Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna. Quichocho used a rear-naked choke on Muna to pull rug under on his foe at the 4:28 mark of the opening record.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Spike 22's Joey Crisostomo Jr., right, kicks Trench Tech's Nick Cruz during the second round of their 145-lb bout in Trench Warz 20: Full Throttle held last Friday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

While Quichocho got the early win, I-Fit Guam's Torsten Rosser showcased his MMA skills for three full rounds against the debuting Jeffery "Monster" Garcia of Trench Tech before recording a victory via unanimous decision. Rosser got the nod from all three judges Dave Celis, Dan Westphal, and Scott Thompson.

Joey Crisostomo Jr. of Spike 22 Guam also earned

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